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# THE TIMES OF INDIA

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'In this **new India, names are not kept after Mughals & their statues are not installed,'** **says Maha CM Devendra Fadnavis** at Agra Fort. Announces that land acquisition for Shivaji memorial in the city is in its final stage

**Eric Dane, best known for his role as a plastic surgeon nicknamed McSteamy in 'Grey's Anatomy', dies** at 53, less than a year after revealing that he was suffering from Lou Gehrig's disease, **INSIDE JACKET**

Prez **Trump directs agencies to release files related to aliens,** ET life and unidentified flying objects, hours after attacking Obama for saying that aliens were real, **INSIDE JACKET**

'Always respected tradition,' **A R Rahman tells SC and agrees to give credit to Junior Dagar Bandhu** in his 'Veera Raja Veera' song. Top court disposes of the appeal, gives him five weeks to add new credit line, **P 10**

## President Trump's Sweeping Global Tariffs Illegal, US Supreme Court Rules In A 6-3 Decision

# SCOTUS strikes down POTUS

### 'Exceeded Powers, Imposed Duties Sans Legislature's Nod'

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

**Washington:** The US Supreme Court on Friday delivered a stunning rebuke to President Donald Trump, ruling in a 6-3 decision that his global tariffs are illegal.

In opinion penned by Chief Justice John Roberts, the court said Trump did not have the authority under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) of 1977 to impose tariffs and "had Congress intended to convey the distinct and extraordinary power to impose tariffs, it would have done so expressly."

▶ **EDIT PAGE: Trump Tariffs Not Dead**

The opinion upholds earlier rulings by the US Court of International Trade and a federal appeals court, both of which found that IEEPA — traditionally used to freeze assets and block financial transactions during national emergencies — did not implicitly authorise tariffs.

In dissent were three conservative justices — Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito and Brett Kavanaugh — who argued that the statute's broad language granting the president authority to "regulate" economic transactions during a declared emergency should be read to encompass tariffs.

According to the dissenters, the majority unduly narrowed presidential power at a time when economic threats from abroad, including currency manipulation and industrial overcapacity, warranted swift executive action.

▶**Constitution powerful: Page opp**

### 'A DISGRACE', PREZ WARNS 'STRONGER METHODS'

"The (constitution) Framers did not vest any part of the taxing power in the Executive Branch
—Chief Justice John Roberts

"I'm ashamed of certain members of the court... (the court) has been swayed by foreign interests and a political movement... There are methods that are even stronger available to me
—President Donald Trump

➤ Ruling marks **momentous break from a series of pro-Trump verdicts issued by SC's 6-3 conservative majority** since he returned to the presidency Jan 2025

➤ The verdict **doesn't stop Trump from imposing duties under other laws,** while those have more limitations on the speed and severity of his actions

➤ These include a statutory provision that permits tariffs on imported goods that threaten **US national security,** and another that **allows retaliatory actions, including tariffs, against trading partners** that the Office of the US Trade Representative determines have used unfair trade practices

➤ Top admn officials have said they **expect to keep the tariff framework in place** under other authorities

➤ **Court has not said how those who paid tariffs will be refunded.** The case will go back to the Court of Int'l Trade on the matter. Many cos have lined up in lower courts to demand refunds

### 'US considering limited strike on Iran'

US President Trump told reporters on Friday that he was considering a limited military strike to pressure Iran into a deal. "I guess I can say I am considering that," he said at the start of a meeting with governors at the White House. Trump is weighing various options to strike Iran in the coming days amid negotiations over its nuclear programme. **PAGE OPP**

### TRUMP SAYS DEAL WITH INDIA IS ON

US president Trump said on Friday that the trade deal with India was "on" and that his relationship with the country was "fantastic". He said India will continue to pay the 18% tariffs that was decided as part of the interim framework. Indian authorities are closely watching the Trump administration's response to the US Supreme Court decision on tariffs, with some seeing a possible room for manoeuvre as the interim trade deal is yet to be signed. **P 17**

### Prez threatens 10% additional global tariff

US President Donald Trump said he would sign an order imposing a 10% global tariff after the Supreme Court struck down the bulk of the levies he had imposed, and pledged a raft of investigations that could allow him to enact more import taxes. "The SC did not overrule tariffs, they merely overruled a particular use of IEEPA tariffs," Trump said. "Now I'm going to go in a different direction, probably the direction that I should have gone the first time." **PAGE OPP**

# Govt works to widen AI declaration consensus

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**New Delhi:** After a week of packed halls, high-level diplomacy and billion-dollar pitches, several national delegations at the India AI Impact Summit will issue a joint statement on how the world should handle artificial intelligence Saturday, a day later than planned, as the govt works to widen global consensus on the document.

The declaration, already backed by over 70 countries, comes amid companies committing to invest more than $250 billion in the country and reinforced India's push to shape global AI agenda for the Global South. Union minister for electronics and IT Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Friday there was "huge consensus", with discussions continuing. "The declaration and its contours will be shared transparently tomorrow," he said, adding that India hoped the final signatory count would cross 80.

▶**Set stage for coop, P 12**

PM Modi met OpenAI CEO Sam Altman on summit sidelines Friday

### PM meets CEOs of 16 deeptech startups

At a roundtable with 16 deeptech startups Friday, PM Modi underscored the govt's push to expand AI adoption with strong data governance, human oversight and India-focused innovation — particularly across healthcare, education and citizen services. Modi also held seven bilateral meetings with global leaders. **P 12**

### Youth Cong protest sets off a storm

Youth Congress functionaries staged a protest inside the AI summit venue Friday, setting off strong reactions. The protesters were led away by police. Union minister Vaishnaw accused Congress of attempting to derail a globally significant event while Congress said it reflected the anger felt by the country's youth. TNN

### Iran-linked oil tanker spent 8 days in Pak, tracking switched off

Asphalt Star, one of the three US-sanctioned Iran-linked oil tankers seized by the Indian Coast Guard had spent eight days (Jan 20-28) inside Pakistan's maritime boundary with tracking systems switched off, says the FIR registered in Mumbai, report **Mateen Hafeez and Surendra Singh. P 15**

### OTHER TOP STORIES

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▶**Safaris to resume today, says K'taka minister, P 4**
▶**State mulls common exams for classes 6-9, P 5**
▶**Activist Snehamayi Krishna arrested, P 5**
▶**JNU VC's 'Dalit victim card' remark sparks row, P 8**

### 8 held for unrest in Bagalkot; curb orders till Feb 24

**Bagalkot:** Police Friday arrested eight people following stone-throwing incidents which disrupted a Shivaji Maharaj Jayanti procession in Bagalkot a day earlier.

Police imposed prohibitory orders till Feb 24 to maintain peace. However, tension gripped parts of the city on Friday morning as a group of youths staged a protest, raised slogans and indulged in stone-throwing despite additional security arrangements. The crowd was dispersed after a mild lathicharge.

Terming the incident 'unfortunate' and appealing for calm, CM Siddaramaiah said Karnataka's strength lies in unity and brotherhood. TNN

▶**SP gives details, P 5**

# SC deploys judicial officers in West Bengal for SIR hearings

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**New Delhi:** In an unprecedented decision, the Supreme Court on Friday used its "extraordinary powers" to deploy judicial officers in West Bengal to decide claims for inclusion in voter list and speed up the completion of Special Intensive Revision of electoral roll. The court emphasised that CM Mamata Banerjee should be aware of the consequences if the revision exercise is not concluded.

The court explained that the unprecedented judicial intervention under Article 142 of the Constitution was necessitated by the "extraordinary situation" that has arisen in Bengal due to trust deficit and non-cooperation between EC and the Bengal govt.

A bench of CJI Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi also, despite objections by the TMC-led govt, allowed the Election Commission (EC) to publish the revised electoral roll — 85% of the total list — on Feb 28, the deadline for publication of the final voter list, while the remaining inclusion claims are still being decided. The bench also did not agree with the contention of the state govt that electoral registration officers (EROs), and not the judicial officers, should have the final say in deciding claims of inclusion in the voter list.

▶**'Obey orders', P 15**

### IN THE COURTS

➤ HC asks **Jaideep Sengar,** Unnao rape case convict's brother, **to surrender** in custody death case | **P 8**

➤ Bombay **HC says Navy 'failed to' notice high rise coming up near INS Shikra,** allows builder to construct 15+ floors at own risk | **P 10**

➤ U'khand HC grants **bail to an HIV+ prisoner** due to lack of medical facilities for such patients in jail | **P 10**

➤ Man convicted in a cheque bounce **case reaches court on a cot to surrender** | **P 10**

### Forex reserves rise $8.6bn, hit high of $725.7bn

**Mumbai:** Foreign exchange reserves rose by $8.66 billion to a record $725.73 billion in the week ended Feb 13, reflecting valuation gains in gold and non-dollar foreign currency assets amid global market volatility and a softer US dollar.

Gold reserves rose by $4.99 billion to $128.47 billion following a surge in international gold prices. The increase in reserves followed a decline of $6.71 billion to $717.06 billion in the week ended Feb 6. The latest level surpassed the previous peak of $723.77 billion recorded in Jan.

Foreign currency assets increased by $3.55 billion to $573.60 billion. These assets are valued in US dollar terms and include holdings in currencies such as the euro, pound and yen. TNN

▶**Rupee stability, P 17**

# India joins US initiative to counter China as both 'align in def of liberty'

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**New Delhi:** India formally joined Friday Pax Silica — the US flagship AI and supply chain security initiative that is widely perceived as an antidote to China's influence over critical technologies. Welcoming India, US ambassador Sergio Gor said that the coalition, which comprises some of Washington's closest allies and trusted partners as members, was about "whether free societies would control the commanding heights of the global economy" and would define the 21st century economic and technological order.

MeitY secretary S Krishnan, US undersecretary for economic growth Jacob Helberg and Gor also signed, apart from the Pax Silica Declaration, a supplementary joint statement that said this partnership signalled a new era in which the world's oldest and largest democracies stood aligned not only in defence of liberty, but in the purposeful pursuit of prosperity and harmony for their peoples.

"**India's entry** into Pax Silica **isn't just symbolic, it's strategic, it's essential.** India is a nation with deep talent, deep enough to rival challengers. Peace doesn't come from hoping adversaries will play fair. **Peace comes through strength. India understands this part of the world**
— US envoy Sergio Gor

▶**India's talent deep, P 12**

### Shankar, 93, the chronicler of Kolkata, dies

Bengali author Mani Shankar Mukherjee, 93, whose writings led to masterpieces such as 'Seemabaddha', 'Chowringhee' and 'Jana Aranya', died in Kolkata Friday. The Sahitya Akademi awardee also wrote biographies of Swami Vivekananda and Sri Aurobindo. **P 15**

### We back India's legit security interests: Lanka

Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake, speaking to TOI, backs India's legitimate security interests in Indian Ocean and says Colombo would like to resume ETCA talks progressively and transparently. **P 12**

# HANGING PLANTERS WITH COCONUT HUSK keep Gowda's garden green with less water

Neelakanta Gowda's garden remains lush green, even in summer, thanks to his hanging coconut husk planters. Instead of pots, Gowda uses these discarded outer shells of coconut. "The planters are set up like a vertical garden, so water flows from top planters to lower ones, reducing wastage," says the 68-year-old from Srinagar in Banashankari. He waters his 350-odd plants in about 45 minutes using just five buckets of water once a week.

GREEN SOLUTION: Neelakantan Gowda (inset) grows his plants in coconut husks

Gowda enjoys making his own planters. "It involves cutting the shell, removing the inner portion, stitching it back together, and arranging it for hanging," he says. Natural gaps and added holes provide drainage. The shells are filled with coco peat (used as the growing medium/manure), which retains water well—so plants need watering only about once a week, even less in rainy season, he says. He developed the method through personal experimentation after retiring as a scientist from the National Aerospace Laboratory.

Gowda claims the coconut husk planters are lightweight, economical, biodegradable, easy to dispose of, long-lasting, and root and plant-friendly.

These planters are mainly suited for ornamental and indoor plants, while some plants like roses don't do well in them.

# SAFE HAVEN or FAUX COMFORT?

Many Bengaluru apartments are pushing for police checks on domestic workers, though for some, especially women residents, there is no one-size-fits-all remedy

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Gated communities are widely regarded as safe havens, with CCTV cameras and round-the-clock security giving residents a sense of reassurance.

Yet, high attrition among guards and the steady influx of domestic help— cooks, gardeners and drivers — have brought safety concerns to the fore. In response, many housing complexes now mandate background checks, with some insisting on police verification amid rising cases involving illegal immigrants.

The move, however, has not found universal support. Nima Srinivasan, founder of Berylitics, who conducted a dipstick study, says many women — who typically hire domestic help — are unconvinced that police verification can address a problem that's serious enough to warrant a blanket rule.

Some women consider police verification of domestic help unnecessary and impractical and trust their personal judgement more than checks run by the cops.

"When probed, it emerged that they trust their intuitive judgement while recruiting help and see that as a sufficient safeguard," notes Nima.

City-wise, too, trends differ. While in Delhi and Noida more women opt for police verification out of insecurity over employing a stranger, in Bengaluru such concerns are fewer.

Many homes in Bengaluru employ multiple domestic workers — such as house help, drivers and cooks — making verification a challenging ongoing process rather than a one-time exercise.

Some women say police verification can be made mandatory, but unless residents see clear benefits, they may be reluctant to comply.

Rajani Vaidya of Mantri Greens Apartments in Malleswaram supports police verification. "Domestic help often change phone numbers, making it hard to trace their records. If they steal or don't repay loans, we must go to the police," she says, adding that verification could prevent such hassles.

She believes that in a big city, with unfamiliar neighbours and workers around, word of mouth is just not enough.

THIRD EYE: At Ferns Paradise in Mahadevapura, domestic workers, drivers and gardeners must submit copies of their Aadhar cards and two references. The villa complex is under CCTV surveillance, providing an extra layer of security.

"It's unlikely that residents hiring domestic help will be willing to shell out the cost of police verification and take that extra effort to ensure compliance.
**Nima Srinivasan** | FOUNDER, BERYLITICS, A CONSUMER INSIGHTS AGENCY

"House help, drivers and caretakers of infants and senior citizens should get police verification done through a portal to avoid needless delays and procedural bottlenecks. Those who are verified should be paid better. Also, higher wages may motivate house help to register voluntarily and get the verification done by themselves. Then, the onus of keeping unverified domestic help will be on residents.
**Anuradha Sinha** | SECRETARY, FERNS PARADISE, MAHADEVAPURA

"Safety shouldn't come at the cost of dignity or practicality. If ID proof and verification are mandatory, apartment managements — not residents or domestic workers — must organise and facilitate those. A coordinated verification drive with local police would ensure compliance in a streamlined, fair and humane manner. Security is fool proof when it is systematic and thoughtfully implemented.
**Radhika Margabandhu** | RESIDENT, GODREJ NURTURE, ELECTRONICS CITY, PHASE 1

## SAFETY GAPS SURFACE

### NOT ENOUGH BACKGROUND CHECKS

A young couple from Koramangala was in for a shock recently, as the nanny they had employed was a suspect in multiple cases of theft. She would check in and out of the complex, avoiding the main gate.

"We had a harrowing time worrying about whether she would have harmed our baby or would have stolen anything," says Savitha Chandan (name changed).

Prestige Acropolis in Koramangala recently issued warnings against two domestic workers after it was found there were police cases against them.

Though these might be isolated incidents, they do flag potential gaps in safety management at large complexes.

### WORKERS STAYING IN APARTMENTS

Apartments often prohibit workers from overnight stays inside the flats during renovation. However, a growing concern involves workers brought in from other states for specialised jobs, says an apartment committee member in East Bengaluru. "In some cases, workers stay in the flats before the owners move in. These outsiders roaming around at night and drinking create security issues," he says.

### POLICE VERIFICATION IS CUMBERSOME

Verification processes invariably become challenging, leaving residents and house help frustrated. "We live in a nuclear family. Amid juggling work and caregiving responsibilities, we find it hard to navigate the verification process," says Khushboo Gupta, who lives in an apartment in Koramangala. "If there is a centralised system or place where we can check past records or verifications, it will be helpful," says Gupta, adding that she wouldn't mind even if it's a paid service.

"Many foreign nationals and migrants work in Bengaluru apartments. It may not be easy for residents to run a background check on all of them. To manage this, police verification could be helpful.
**Vanita Vyas** | FORMER MC MEMBER, NAGASHIA MAPLE HEIGHTS APARTMENT, MAHADEVAPURA

## HOUSING SOCIETY SWINGS INTO ACTION

At Godrej Nurture, a 986-unit apartment located in Electronics City Phase 1, household staff must complete document verification by March 12. They must submit a govt-issued identity proof from their native place, and a police verification certificate, along with one passport-size photograph.

The housing society has issued a circular, stating that from March 19 onwards, entry into the premises will not be permitted without a valid physical ID card. Residents are also required to register their domestic workers on an in-house app.

"Many of us leave our house keys with them to get household work completed. If the maid is not trustworthy, this can be quite risky. Nannies who double up as house help must have police verification certificates.
**Chitra Rao** | RESIDENT, SAN RIU SIRISHRIY, ELECTRONICS CITY

"Most domestic workers and gardeners here are from nearby villages, and have worked with us for years. They are dependable and treated like extended family. A blanket verification rule would harass them and burden residents. Police checks should be limited to specific cases —such as new hires without references — not imposed across the board.
**Swaminathan Gopalan** | RESIDENT, SOBHA ALTHEA AND AZALEA OWNERS' ASSOCIATION AND PRESIDENT, YELAHANKA CLUSTER, BANGALORE APARTMENTS' FEDERATION

DEAR READER If you have done something in your locality, apartment complex or home that others can benefit from, do write to **timescommunity@timesofindia.com**, with your photo.

# URBAN COMMUNITIES ARE SHIFTING TO R MODE

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A repair workshop organized at Casagrand Luxus, a community of 124 families located at Hulehalli was a resounding success, drawing over 70 residents seeking hands-on solutions and support with repairs. "The workshop covered repairing items like umbrellas, garments, footwear, zipper, knives, and bicycles," says Suresh Randadath, a resident who is an IT professional, adding that over 300 items got repaired at the workshop. Besides imparting skills, it familiarised the residents with some common tools used for repair.

In a city where even electronic goods and furniture are delivered at lightning speed, why would one bother to get things repaired or mended? The answer is simple, but thought-provoking. "It is easy to get rid of something that is broken or torn and order a new one online, but we believe in fixing and repairing because we care for the city. It is also a matter of supporting livelihoods," says a volunteer of Repair Cafe Bengaluru Foundation.

REDUCE AND REPAIR: Repair workshops impart knowledge on tools and provide support with repair

A workshop organised by the foundation recently in Sanjay Nagar turned out to be a lively community gathering where people came along with broken musical instruments, decor items, festival lights, and old clothes and learned the lost art of sewing, mending and soldering. Some who arrived with worn-out appliances and gadgets left with both repaired items and strong repair networks.

Repair Cafe is gearing up for Solvecon, another workshop held at PES University on Feb 21.

### Repair events and workshops in apartments

Saahas, a Bengaluru-based NGO reaches out to apartment communities, connecting them with repair vendors, from cobblers to tailors through RRR Maadi. "The project seeks to conduct 36 community engagement events to promote a culture of refuse, reduce and repair," says Smita Kulkarni, communications lead at Saahas.

Repair workshops and events are useful for all. Interacting with a cobbler or electric technician allows you to know more about the products you use, their parts, and the cost. The workshops also offer a platform for apartment dwellers to connect with local communities.

"RRR Maadi has received an overwhelming response from apartments across the city. Once RWAs allot space for repair activities, we identify local repair vendors and organise them for the event. If specific vendors are not available locally, we get them from other areas. We have seen that mostly with umbrella repair.

Residents pay the vendor directly for the repair, while our project team takes care of the logistics for the vendors. We arrange for their lunch and transport. We also do the gap funding in case not many residents turn up for the repair
**Deepti Ravi** | PROJECT MANAGER, RRR MAADI AT SAAHAS

"Repair Cafe Bengaluru organizes DIY repair workshops, repair training programs, activism for professional repairers and repair walks. We help people repair household appliances, clothes, bicycles, semi-precious jewellery, shoes and bags.

Now we are planning to take the Repair Cafe initiative to govt schools across Malleswaram.
**–Team Repair Cafe Bengaluru**

"Our community organised a repair workshop through Saahas, wherein over 300 items got repaired. I'd encourage other communities to conduct such workshops, because in addition to being eco-friendly, it supports the livelihood of people doing the repair work.
**Suresh Randadath** | RESIDENT, CASAGRAND LUXUS, HULEHALLI

## MY FAVOURITE RECIPE

Vivek (third from left) with his relatives Mukesh and Radhika, and mom Poonam

# SINDHI MUTTON CURRY A proud inheritance

Vivek Pratap Makhija

I lost my father a few days before Covid-19 hit, and I coped during the lockdown by cooking.

A friend visited me one day, and the conversation turned to earlier times when life was simpler and happier. He recalled having mutton curry at my home, made by my father, and urged me to preserve the culinary legacy. "Your mother would know how to make that mutton curry. Why don't you learn it from her?" he asked.

My mother was happy to share the recipe. However, Sindhi mothers have a quick fix for everything and manage with few ingredients, and my mom was no different. I kept cajoling and coaxing her, and she eventually shared a longer version that matched what my father followed.

Every time I make this dish, it brings back memories of my dad. I smile through the pain when my mom compliments me, saying I've outdone her cooking.

**INGREDIENTS**

- Mutton – 1 kg (curry cut, goat meat – shoulder, ribs, or leg)
- Onion- 4 large nos (finely chopped)
- Bay leaves – 1 or 2 small leaves
- Pepper powder – 1 tsp
- Cardamom powder – 1 tsp
- Cumin powder – 1 tsp
- Coriander powder – 1 tbsp
- Kashmiri red chili powder – 1 tbsp
- Garam masala – 1 tsp
- Cloves – 4 nos
- Green Cardamom – 2 nos
- Black Peppercorns – 5 to 6 nos
- Ginger, garlic and green chili paste – 2 tbsp
- Curd – 250 gms
- Tomatoes – 3 medium-sized (pureed)
- Salt- To taste
- Oil /ghee – 1 tbsp each
- Coriander leaves- A handful (chopped)

**METHOD**

- In a pressure cooker, add 1 tbsp oil & 1 tbsp ghee and saute onion till golden brown. Add bay leaves, whole peppercorns, cloves, green cardamom, ginger garlic chili paste, salt, red chili powder and cook on a low flame. Add water to ensure the masala doesn't stick to the cooker bottom.
- Add the mutton, dry masalas and curd and cook on medium flame for a few minutes. Add the tomato puree and continue to cook on medium flame until the oil separates.
- Add a cup of water to the meat and bring it to boil, and then pressure cook on high flame for 4 to 5 whistles.
- Check the taste once again and add salt or pepper if required.
- Garnish with fresh coriander leaves.
- Serve hot with white rice, roti or pav, with sliced onion salad on the side.

*Vivek is an entrepreneur. He lives in Sterling Residency Apartments in Dollars Colony, RMV 2nd Stage*

## LEARN SPOKEN KANNADA

*We continue the Kannada learning series, designed by Makaranda. Use the QR code to get to an audio file that will help you with pronunciations.*
*Website : https://makaranda-et12.onrender.com*

QR code for Lesson 5A audio file

**Lesson 5 Part A**

**Today, let us learn some new words through a conversation between an auto driver, a student and, a co-passenger.**

WORDS TABLE

| Kannada | English |
|---|---|
| biDi | leave/drop |
| mahaDi | floor |
| meTTilu | steps |

SINGULAR/PLURAL

| | |
|---|---|
| mahaDi | mahaDigaLu |
| meTTilu | meTTilugaLu |
| baagilu | baagilugaLu |
| nildaaNa | nildaaNagaLu |

THE STUDENT IS HEADING TO THE METRO STATION. HE CONVERSES WITH THE AUTO DRIVER AND THE FELLOW PASSENGER

| How to Pronounce | Meaning in English |
|---|---|
| namaskaara, illi hattira Metro station ideyaa? | Hi, is the metro station nearby? |
| ide, Jayanagara Metro station | Yes, Jayanagara Metro Station. |
| sari, aNNa, jayanagara metro ge biDteeraa? | OK brother, can you drop me at Jayanagar Metro Station? |
| sari, kutkoLLi | Ok, please get inside. |
| dhanyavaadagaLu. | Thank you. |
| Metro station ge meTTilu hatti modalane mahaDi ge hOgabEku. | Take the stairs to the first floor to get to the metro station. |
| Majestic ge yaava kaDe hOgabEku? | Which side do I need to go, to go to Majestic? |
| ee kaDe. | This side. |
| Metro Arrives: bEga hatti, baagilu muchchatte. | Metro Arrives: Get inside fast, the door will close. |
| abba, swalpa darali tappisikoLLuttidde | Thank god, I would have missed it. |
| Announcement : mundina nildaaNa, Majestic | The next station is Majestic. |
| Majestic bantu, iLiri. | We are at Majestic, please get down. |
| dhanyavaadagaLu. | Thank you. |

**Exercises: Section 1**

**Match the following and write the serial numbers of your answers in column K**

| Kannada Word (K) | English Equivalent(E) | K |
|---|---|---|
| 1.mundina | a.want to go | |
| 2.hattu | b.close | |
| 3.yaavakaDe | c.is there | |
| 4.swalpa | d.first | |
| 5.modalane | e.near | |
| 6.hattira | f.which side | |
| 7.ideya | g.little/ a bit | |
| 8.mucchu | h.next | |
| 9.hOgabEku | i.climb | |

**Exercises: Section 2**

**Translate the following sentences into Kannada. Read out the sentences, record your voice and upload the recordings by scanning the QR code below by Feb 22,2026 (Sunday), 11: 59pm. Top three submissions will be recognized next week.**

1. Which metro station is this?
2. Is this Purple Line?
3. I want to go to Green Line.
4. In that case, change over at Majestic for the Green Line.
5. Thanks a lot for the information

Note: Answer keys for this lesson will be published next week.

**Answer Keys for previous lesson (Lesson 4B)**

**Section 1: Match the following**

1-d,2-c,3-c,4-c,5-d,6-d,7-b,8-d,9-d,10-b,11-c,12-c,13-b,14-c,15-c,16-b,17-d,18-d,19-d,20-c

Winners of the contest Lesson 4: Section 2

Asma K George Joseph Hemamalini Mahesh Kumar

# Stray adoption drive lacks cap amid pet-dog limit plan

## GBA's Policy Creates Confusion

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**Bengaluru:** A contradiction has emerged within the civic administration's stray dog management framework, as Greater Bengaluru Authority's (GBA) ongoing adoption drive appears to be in conflict with chief commissioner M Maheshwar Rao's earlier suggestion on limiting the number of pet dogs in residential homes to three under the proposed pet regulation policy.

While the commissioner's directive stated households shouldn't keep more than three pet dogs, a senior veterinary officer attached to the animal husbandry division said there is no fixed cap on the number of stray dogs an individual can adopt, provided they have adequate infrastructure, and the financial capacity to ensure proper food, shelter and medical care. "The adoption drive is aimed at humane rehabilitation of aggressive or vulnerable street dogs that cannot be released back into public spaces after being picked up. These dogs undergo health screening, anti-rabies vaccination (ARV), combined vaccination and Animal Birth Control (ABC) sterilisation before being offered for adoption in accordance with Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, and Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023," said a senior veterinary officer, GBA.

Under the current adoption model, individuals with sufficient land or institutional premises may adopt multiple dogs. However, the absence of a defined ceiling in the adoption guidelines appeared inconsistent with the three-dog restriction proposed under the pet policy for residential premises.

In Bengaluru North city corporation limits alone, 26 stray dogs were adopted so far, including 20 by a single individual as part of GBA's drive. Authorities estimated nearly 65,000 strays were present in the zone, with another 10 to 15 ready for adoption. Civic authorities continued to encourage responsible adoption as a long-term strategy to reduce street dog population while preventing cruelty.

GBA is also preparing to float tenders for a proposed 500-capacity dog shelter at Madi Agrahara in line with Supreme Court directions on humane stray dog management.

### WHOM TO CONTACT FOR ADOPTION?

Stray dogs are available for adoption across all five municipal zones under GBA. Interested individuals should contact the chief veterinary officer of the respective municipal corporation's animal husbandry department. Call helpline 1533, which can also be used to file stray dog-related complaints.

### Dog bites woman at pet spa

Times News Network

**Bengaluru:** A late-night visit to a pet grooming centre in Koramangala turned traumatic for a 35-year-old woman suffering from an autoimmune disorder. She was bitten by a German Shepherd while enquiring about services for her pet.

The incident occurred around 2.30am on Jan 4, but a complaint was filed on Feb 17. According to police, the woman and her sister were discussing grooming options with the centre's co-owner when the latter's dog suddenly rushed towards them. Despite repeated requests to restrain the animal, it bit the woman on the stomach, causing a deep bleeding injury.

The family alleged no immediate medical help was offered by the staff. The woman was taken to a nearby hospital, where she received a tetanus shot and was advised a five-week anti-rabies vaccination course.

Her condition is serious because she has an autoimmune disorder and is on medication, increasing the risk of infection from animal bites, police said quoting the complaint.

Cops registered a case under BNS Section 291 for negligent conduct with respect to animals.

# Child porn sold online at ₹550, hunt on for suspect

**Bengaluru:** Cybercrime police have launched a manhunt for a person who allegedly sold thousands of child sexual exploitation videos online. The accused is suspected to be a resident of Indiranagar.

The development came after Telangana State Cyber Security Bureau alerted authorities in Bengaluru about a suspicious individual linked to the circulation of CSEAM (child sexual exploitative and abuse material) content.

East cybercrime police registered a case and began the investigation.

According to officials, the suspect allegedly uploaded around 3,000 videos containing CSEAM content on a Telegram group and sold access to them at Rs 550 per video. The mobile number linked to the activity was initially traced to an address in Narayana Reddy Layout.

However, after analysing the call records, police found that the suspect's address was at Indiranagar. A senior officer said steps are being taken to apprehend the individual behind the Telegram group and dismantle any wider network.

A case was registered under the Information Technology Act TNN

# As dad killed mom, daughter in US refuses to travel for funeral

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**Bengaluru:** The horrifying incident at a senior living community, where a 70-year-old man allegedly killed his wife fearing there would be no one to take care of her after his death, took another sorrowful turn with the victim's only daughter refusing to fly down from New Jersey, US, citing personal reasons.

Now that the suspect, Nageshwar Rao, has been arrested, cops, left with no alternative, approached a member of his extended family who completed the legal formalities and cremated the victim, 65-year-old Sandhya Shri.

On Feb 18 morning, Sandhya was killed allegedly by Rao inside their flat at Virtuoso Apartments, a senior living community at Bommenahalli in Whitefield division. The couple had been staying there since 2022. When police questioned Rao, a former Isro staffer, who was sitting on the sofa while his wife's body lay in the kitchen, he said: "Yes, I killed her. Who would have looked after her after my death? I will hardly live another 2-3 years. What after my death? We don't have close relatives."

Sandhya Shri & Nageshwar Rao

A senior IPS officer said they made futile attempts to convince the daughter to come to Bengaluru and complete the formalities.

"On the day of the incident, we contacted her and passed the shocking message. Initially, she told us that she would fly down, and we decided to hold the autopsy and other legal work after her arrival. However, later, she refused, saying it was not possible for her. We were shocked to hear that," he said.

"On learning that she refused, we contacted Vijay Baba, brother-in-law of Nageshwar Rao and a resident of JB Nagar, and he cooperated with us and completed all the legal formalities. Also, he cremated Sandhya Shri according to their tradition," he said.

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# Love the smell of Bengaluru, says Netherlands PM

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**Netherlands PM Dick Schoof, who visited Philips Innovation Campus at Yelahanka, emphasised that AI integration in healthcare is something his country hopes to learn from Bengaluru**

**Bengaluru:** "The first thing that comes to my mind when I think of Bengaluru is the air quality index (AQI) — and it is so beautiful here," said Dick Schoof, prime minister of the Netherlands, during his visit to the city Friday.

Addressing the media on the sidelines of an AI summit in India, Schoof expressed admiration for Bengaluru's clean air relative to Delhi and its vibrant atmosphere. "I love Bengaluru because of the AQI. It is amazing here," he said, adding that his early-morning run in the city left him particularly impressed. "It is a really vibrant city and the atmosphere is really good. The smell of Bengaluru reminds me of my home in the Netherlands," he remarked.

During his visit, Schoof toured the Philips Innovation Campus in Yelahanka, where he witnessed advancements in healthcare technology powered by AI. Highlighting one innovation that stood out, Schoof referred to an AI-enabled stethoscope that can display heart rhythms simply by placing it on a patient's palm. "This is amazing, and we would like to implement such technologies in the Netherlands," he noted, emphasising how AI integration in healthcare is something his country hopes to learn from Bengaluru.

The Dutch PM also visited Bengaluru's Traffic Management Centre (TMC) to review the Actionable Intelligence for Sustainable Transformation Management (ASTraM) system. Developed in collaboration with Dutch company Arcadis, ASTraM is a tech-driven approach to analyse and manage the city's traffic congestion using real-time data.

Impressed by the integration of Google Maps, TomTom data and CCTV feeds, Schoof praised the quick-response mechanism. "They can quickly send traffic police to the right spot and organise signals remotely," Schoof pointed out.

The ASTraM system classifies congestion into recurring and non-recurring categories, issuing alerts every 15 minutes to field officers. It also enables predictive analysis, including forecasting traffic patterns, factoring in weather conditions. Officials claim the system significantly reduced congestion levels over the past two years. Schoof described the proactive use of data and rapid accident response as particularly noteworthy, calling Bengaluru's tech-driven govt governance model "impressive and forward-looking."

Joint commissioner of police (traffic) Karthik Reddy told TOI the PM also appreciated the adaptive traffic control systems (ATCS) and the way the city handled congestion and predicted traffic congestion in the future.

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# State heads for showdown with ECI, Centre over SIR

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**LOGGERHEADS:** The state cabinet had amended rules last year to allow the State Election Commission, for the first time, to independently revise electoral rolls. SEC is scheduled to release the final list on March 31, just days before the Election Commission begins its revision

**Bengaluru:** While Karnataka's chief electoral officer (CEO) prepares to launch the special intensive revision (SIR) of the voter list in April, a fresh state-Union govt confrontation is brewing since the State Election Commission (SEC) is conducting its own parallel revision exercise. The SEC is scheduled to issue final electoral rolls by March 31.

The Siddaramaiah cabinet last week asked law and parliamentary affairs minister HK Patil to study legal and political implications of SIR and submit a report. Patil is expected to present his findings by March 10, while the cabinet is scheduled to deliberate on the issue on Thursday (Feb 26).

"Our study will cover both constitutional provisions and political aspects linked to SIR," said Patil. "We will examine the political intent of BJP-led central govt and how they are conducting SIR. We will recommend remedial measures to ensure transparency of the process and to conserve its integrity. We will also examine whether SIR amounts to duplication of the process since SEC would have revised the electoral rolls by then."

Rizwan Arshad, MLA, said the state govt will oppose SIR as "the Election Commission of India (ECI) has lost credibility".

"People have lost trust in ECI over the way additions and deletions were done in the guise of SIR in other states," Rizwan said. "The process is highly biased towards BJP. While the cabinet-appointed panel is studying the issue, we will appeal to the Centre to drop SIR and explore ways of moving court if our plea is unanswered."

However, the CEO's office, which functions under ECI, is moving at speed to roll out SIR. Officials said preparatory work is underway, with 69% of house mapping completed.

In Sept last year, the state cabinet amended rules to allow SEC to independently revise electoral rolls for the first time in Karnataka, with the final list scheduled to be notified by March 31. The move is seen as an attempt by the govt to counter SIR, leading to an unusual situation where two authorities are revising the same voter list simultaneously.

However, CEO V Anbukumar: "We are not concerned with political rhetoric. The SIR we are conducting is a routine exercise."

He said this was the ninth SIR exercise, with the last one conducted in 2002. "The special summary revision (SSR) which is held annually is normally based on requests by voters, whereas an SIR involves scrutiny of every voter," Anbukumar said.

Meanwhile, a delegation of Congress legislators led by deputy CM DK Shivakumar raised concerns over discrepancies in the SEC-led revision, especially in Greater Bengaluru. The delegation urged state election commissioner GS Sangreshi to ensure voters are mapped street-wise and house-wise. "There are some instances where the members of the same households are divided into two booths. This is because of a decision to increase the number of voters per booth from 1,200 to 1,500. We have requested the SEC to take appropriate steps to address this," Rizwan said.

## SHORT TAKES

### State is delaying central projects: Kumaraswamy

Union minister for heavy industries and steel HD Kumaraswamy accused the Karnataka govt of delaying centrally funded projects and returning allocated funds due to non-utilisation. He also alleged that the state govt had failed to provide matching grants and timely land allocation. He was speaking after presenting the 'Vignatham 2026' award to scientist MK Surappa at Adichunchanagiri. Kumaraswamy said he would get at least two industrial firms to set up operations in Mandya and revealed efforts are underway to revive Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Plant in Bhadravathi, with an initial investment of Rs 5,000 crore, and rejuvenate Hindustan Machine Tools Ltd.

### Journos protest Soudha curbs, CM defends move

Journalists staged a dharna at Vidhana Soudha, protesting restrictions on electronic media personnel to the Kengal Hanumanthaiah entrance. A delegation submitted a memorandum and met chief minister Siddaramaiah, who refused to roll back the order, calling it a "reasonable restriction". "As per the Constitution, the govt has power to impose reasonable restrictions. We are not barring journalists from entering Vidhana Soudha but only asking them to obtain quotes and bytes from legislators and officials at Kengal Hanumanthaiah gate," he said. Siddaramaiah said journalists were free to protest and that he would examine the memorandum.

### MLA threatens to cut power to industries

Kolar legislator Kothur Manjunath triggered controversy after suggesting power supply to firms in Vemagal industrial area would be shut off. He alleged disrespect for elected representatives. Speaking at a Vemagal Pattana panchayat meeting, he said companies were "ill-treating" elected representatives, pointing out local politicians were not invited to the inauguration of Airbus helicopters' final assembly line by the defence minister. He said he boycotted the event and asked district in-charge minister Byrathi Suresh to stay away. He said power lines would be snapped if separate transformers were not installed.

# Jarkiholi's take on graft leaves Cong red-faced

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** Public works minister **Satish Jarkiholi**'s acknowledgment that the practice of kickbacks and bribery persists within Karnataka's governance system has embarrassed Congress.

Jarkiholi made the remarks Thursday amid tension between the govt and Karnataka State Contractors Association (KSCA), which announced a statewide dharna on March 6 to protest the govt's failure to clear pending bills amounting to Rs 37,370 crore. The association has also claimed that corruption has worsened under the Congress govt, with kickbacks having increased compared to previous govts.

Asked about the alleged rampant culture of graft in PWD, Jarkiholi said, "That's there. It was there before. It's there now. It will be there in future. It's difficult to trace where exactly it happens. Allegations keep coming from different sides. It existed earlier, it exists today, and it may exist tomorrow as well. But it has to be controlled. We must put an end to it." His comments have caused disquiet in the governing party, especially since it has provided fodder for the opposition to criticise the govt's track record on transparency and reform.

Opposition leader R Ashoka said, "He (Jarkiholi) admitted this because he is also corrupt. Corruption has been there since Independence and its foundation was laid by Congress. This is a shame for the Congress govt. The minister has openly accepted that his govt is corrupt."

# BSY's call triggers pecking order chatter in BJP, JD(S)

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**COMPETITION WITHIN:** Both HD Kumaraswamy and BY Vijayendra are seen as potential chief ministerial faces under the NDA banner

**Bengaluru:** BJP patron and former CM BS Yediyurappa's clarion call, urging party workers to secure a clear mandate for the saffron party in the 2028 assembly elections has sparked murmurs within the NDA alliance, with speculation over whether the state unit was signalling its "big brother" status to ally JD(S).

Political observers and party functionaries said the former chief minister's remarks has added fuel to ongoing chatter of "one-upmanship" between BJP state president BY Vijayendra and his JD(S) counterpart and Union minister HD Kumaraswamy, both seen as potential chief ministerial faces under the NDA banner.

But BJP and JD(S) functionaries insisted Yediyurappa's remarks were merely a reiteration of Vijayendra's ambition to win as many seats as possible in 2028 and consolidate his position within the party.

"It is nothing but political posturing between Vijayendra and Kumaraswamy," a BJP member said. "These remarks seldom make a difference since central brass take the final decision."

JD(S) functionaries also downplayed the remarks, describing them as a political manoeuvre by the father-son duo to project primary leadership within the party. "They are only playing to the gallery," a JD(S) functionary said. "Such statements will have no bearing on the alliance as the final decision will be taken by Amit Shah and PM Narendra Modi."

BJP members in Karnataka are also upset that JD(S) has a "direct link" with BJP's central brass, bypassing the state unit and leading to internal friction. "In fact, because of this particular ego clash and infighting in BJP, the coordination committee of both parties has still not been formed," another JD(S) functionary said.

Officially, both parties dismissed Yediyurappa's remarks as a routine morale-boosting exercise ahead of polls. "Be it BJP or JD(S), we cannot speak of an alliance victory and expect the cadre to rally behind us," said Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, BJP opposition leader in the legislative council. "At a BJP state executive meeting, it is natural for party brass to seek to boost the morale of cadres by urging them to ensure a landslide victory for itself. The same goes for JD(S) at their party meetings."

KA Thippeswamy, former JD(S) MLC, echoed the sentiment, saying the alliance remains intact, and Yediyurappa's remarks should be seen purely as a call to mobilise BJP workers ahead of the 2028 elections.

# Unease over DKS' move to appoint working presidents

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**DRAWING BOARD:** Siddaramaiah and HC Mahadevappa met with members of Dalit organisations to seek their inputs for the budget

**Bengaluru:** Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president DK Shivakumar's decision to appoint working presidents to select district Congress committees (DCC) has sparked unease in the party, with district-level functionaries alleging that the move has created parallel power centres and organisational confusion.

The development comes amid broader discontent within Congress over the tussle for the CM post between Shivakumar — also deputy chief minister — and CM Siddaramaiah. A long-overdue cabinet rejig has added uncertainty within the governing party.

Several DCC functionaries objected to the creation of the new post, saying it undermines the authority of elected district presidents and blurs the chain of command. Sources said the appointments were made to select districts, especially ones where dissatisfaction with DCC presidents were previously flagged.

Sources said the working presidents have been tasked with monitoring MLAs' performance, public outreach, and electoral prospects, while also collecting data on defeated candidates from the last election to strengthen organisational outreach.

Some members also alleged the move is aimed at building an alternative leadership structure ahead of the 2028 assembly elections, especially in districts where Siddaramaiah loyalists head DCC units.

Shivakumar's supporters defended the move, saying groundwork is already being laid for the 2028 assembly elections keeping in view possible constituency reshuffles and early candidate selection.

But senior party functionaries warned the move could intensify turf battles between DCC presidents and newly appointed working presidents. They said it could also divide the state unit into Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar camps. KPCC office-bearers declined to comment on the appointments.

# Big demand spurs plan to expand Maulana schools

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**Bengaluru:** Strong enrolment in English-medium Maulana Azad Model Schools (MAMS) has prompted the directorate of minorities to propose adding 100 more lower kindergarten (LKG) schools and expand upper kindergarten (UKG) and pre-university (PUC) sections across Karnataka.

So far, 98% of the 3,000 LKG seats introduced in Sept 2025 have been filled and officials said the numbers indicate growing demand for English-medium schooling among minority communities.

"Each class has a strength of 30, of which about 23 seats (75%) are reserved for minority students," an official from the department said. "These schools are largely located in areas where members of the community reside, ensuring education remains accessible. Earlier, like other welfare board schools, they offered classes from VI to X. The extension has received a strong response."

With 2,800 of the 3,000 LKG seats filled since the initiative began, Mansoor Basha, deputy director, Directorate of Minorities (DOM), said the department plans to double the number of schools offering kindergarten classes. "In addition, we are proposing to the govt to add 100 upper kindergarten classrooms within existing LKG schools," Basha said.

Saraswathi R, a teacher at MAMS Minhaz Nagar in Banashankari, Bengaluru, said enrolment of young girls from minority communities has been rising.

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"If we bring them into the education system at a young age, there is greater chance of them continuing until completion," Saraswathi said. "There are no fees — neither for tuition nor uniforms. Girls consistently emerge as toppers in the Class X board examinations."

She said continuity in English-medium instruction had earlier been a challenge. "Students transitioning from Urdu medium often struggled at high-school level. However, we maintained a 90% pass percentage," she said.

Vithoba Honakande, assistant director (education), DOM, said another proposal under consideration is to upgrade 75 MAMS — modelled on Karnataka Public Schools of the education department and to be renamed Karnataka Maulana Azad Public Schools — to include first and second PUC sections.

"These could function in rented premises within a 2km radius, while the kindergarten expansions will have to be accommodated within existing school premises," Honakande said. He said 25 of the 300 Maulana Azad schools had PUC sections added in 2023-24.

# Tiger safari to resume today: Minister

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Minibuses will be primarily used for safari rides, with minimal use of vans and jeeps

**Mysuru:** The much-awaited safaris in Nagarahole and Bandipur tiger reserves will resume Saturday, forest minister Eshwar B Khandre said, adding minibuses will be primarily used for rides, along with minimal use of vans and jeeps.

The safaris were suspended in Nov 2025 following the death of three farmers in tiger reserves.

Chairing a meeting of forest officers from Mysuru, Chamarajanagar and Kodagu districts in Mysuru, the minister said an official order to restart the safari will be issued Saturday. He directed officials to rope in only 50% of safari vehicles and staff used before Nov 2025 for these rides.

The minister asked officials of Bandipur and Nagarahole reserves to identify areas with human-wildlife conflict and step up patrolling in those sensitive zones. Precautions should be taken to prevent wildlife from entering human habitats and causing harm to life or crops.

Along Bandipur forest border, a highly sensitive area of 100km has been identified. Here, 25 camps should be set up — one every 5km — with locals appointed as 'forest friends' to monitor wildlife movements. All required facilities, such as thermal drones or vehicles, must be provided, Khandre stated. Emphasis should be placed on crop protection too.

The minister instructed measures to control forest fires in Nagarahole, Bandipur, and BRT reserves during summer.

Steps should be taken to ensure tigers, leopards, elephants, and other wildlife do not leave the forest due to food and water shortages in the coming months, he said.

# *RGUHS to launch life and study skills intervention model for MBBS students*

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**There are 53 medical colleges under RGUHS. Nimhans will train three faculty per college — 1 from psychiatry, 1 from community medicine and 1 who will be designated as a nodal person for the mentoring cell within that medical college. The nodal person will, in turn, train rest of the faculty in the college**

**Bengaluru:** Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences is planning to launch a life and study skills intervention model for MBBS students at medical colleges affiliated to the university. The programme is in collaboration with Nimhans, which will roll out the modules and faculty training.

The latest syndicate meeting of RGUHS approved the programme and decided to release Rs 50 lakh as seed money for implementation of the project. Further, the university wants to tap corporate social responsibility funding for the same. "The main objectives of the programme are to improve academic performance and reduce behavioural issues. The intervention model is being done using mentoring as an approach. The skills taught will include time management, stress management, multitasking, micro-planning for studies, memory and concentration techniques, and knowledge management techniques," said Bhagavan BC, VC, RGUHS.

"The first step is to assess the current academic performance of all medical students across Karnataka. The second is to identify their mentoring and behavioural needs. After the competency-based medical education (CBME) curriculum was introduced in 2019-20, we did not get feedback from students. We are trying to understand their acceptance of the new system, their stress levels and learnings," he added.

There are 53 medical colleges under RGUHS. Nimhans will train three faculty per college — 1 from psychiatry, 1 from community medicine and 1 who will be designated as a nodal person for the mentoring cell within that medical college who will, in turn, train rest of the faculty in the college. "We will be looking at reducing behavioural issues, suicidal ideation, technology addiction and substance abuse. Students will be sensitised to the availability of mentoring support to seek help for any of the issues, ranging from studies to substance use and relationships. In the long term, we hope to have a model of mentoring that is part of the system," said an official from Nimhans.

Also, there is a plan to develop and test an AI-enabled counselling service for support or guidance in different languages.

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# 25-yr-old woman extorted, humiliated after taking emergency loan from app

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**Bengaluru:** A 25-year-old woman landed in deep trouble after taking an emergency loan from an online lending app. Fraudsters allegedly morphed her photos in obscene ways, shared them with her family and friends and threatened to make them viral on social media despite her clearing the loan amount. The accused extorted over Rs 1.1 lakh from her and are still demanding more.

Ishita (name changed), a resident of New Thippasandra, told police she needed around Rs 10,000 for an emergency. Instead of asking someone, she decided to take a loan from an app. She searched online, found a link for Loan Mitra app, downloaded it and entered her banking and personal details on Jan 27.

The app approved only Rs 4,500 and disbursed Rs 2,700 to her bank account after deducting charges, including interest, and give her a deadline of seven days for repayment. She claimed she repaid Rs 4,500 before the due date. However, the app again disbursed the same amount to her account without her consent and began demanding repayment, Ishita told police.

When she said she did not apply for the loan a second time and she would repay the credited amount, the miscreants began threatening and harassing her through multiple phone calls, she said.

They morphed her photos and threatened to share them with her contacts. Fearing the embarrassment, she started paying amounts demanded by the fraudsters. By Feb 12, she paid over Rs 1.1 lakh through digital payment apps to 16 UPI IDs provided by the accused.

When Ishita ran out of money, she borrowed from family and friends to repay them. After she informed the fraudsters that she no longer had money, they continued calling and sending abusive messages. She switched off her phone in an attempt to avoid them.

The fraudsters then created a WhatsApp group, adding her family members and friends from her contact list, and shared the morphed photos and videos. They also called her contacts and asked them to tell Ishita to repay the loan.

A senior police officer said after the app was downloaded, it sought permission to access her contacts, photos and videos, which she had to approve to obtain the loan. The fraudsters then accessed her contact list and images and trapped her by offering quick loans without documentation.

A case was registered against the fraudsters under Information Technology Act and BNS Section 318 (cheating). The woman provided 13 mobile numbers from which she received harassment and threat calls.

## High court refuses to quash FIR in fake SBI loan case

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** The high court refused to quash a cheating and cybercrime FIR and proceedings against four persons accused of duping a businessman by creating a fake State Bank of India website, hacking the actual bank website and obtaining OTPs.

Vinayak Kabadi, a businessman from Gadag, was the complainant. K Balajee alias Balaji Sha; Silmia alias Silmya Fathima, both from Tamil Nadu; Seba Jeevan Sebaratnam, a resident of Carshalton, UK, and currently residing in Bengaluru; Vinay Kumar Agarwal, Bengaluru, challenged the FIR and proceedings initiated by police.

The complainant was looking to raise loans to establish a sugar factory. In Oct 2017, he visited Celestial Tiles showroom at Indiranagar, Bengaluru, owned by Vinay Agarwal. Vinay and Silmia's husband Niyaz assured him they would arrange a loan of Rs 225 crore and asked him to meet SBI officials at Park Hyatt Hotel, Chennai.

Niyaz and Silmia introduced him to others. They lured him with promise of the loan and demanded a commission of 7% of the amount.

The complainant agreed. In furtherance of the said transaction, one email was sent to him, and Rs 49 lakh was shown credited to his SBI account opened on Jan 4, 2018.

Another email transaction alert came from sbicf.co.in, informing that Rs 115 crore was credited, and again Rs 110 crore was shown as credited, totalling the account balance to Rs 225,49,00,000. The complainant paid about Rs 7.2 crore, 50% of the commission amount. He then checked the account in SBI and on learning that he was duped, he filed a complaint on July 16, 2022.

The accused argued the issue was civil in nature and there was inordinate delay in registration of the complaint. "To quash proceedings at this stage would be to smother a serious prosecution in its infancy and to grant immunity where proceedings cry out for a trial. This court thus finds these petitions meritless," Justice Nagaprasanna observed.

# Exam board may prepare common papers for Std 6-9

SruthySusan.Ullas
@timesofindia.com

**Bengaluru:** The department of school education and literacy is proposing common question papers — prepared by Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board — for classes 6, 7, 8 and 9 in state-syllabus govt schools from the current academic year.

GOVT SCHOOLS

Till now, question papers for summative assessment-2 (or term-2 exam) were prepared at the school level. The latest move is to have a standardised question paper for these four classes. However, valuation will be done at the school level, and there will be no detentions based on results.

"Instead of focusing only on class 10 and 12, interventions must be made early. We'll attempt interventions from class 6 so that the pressure on the child eases by class 10," said a senior official.

"This is a gentle exercise to ensure students are ready for adequate learning interventions. We'll follow Right to Education — there will be no coercion, punitive action or detention," the official further added.

Question papers will be despatched to school logins from KSEAB in the morning of the exam days. The school headmaster has to print out the papers. This practice is followed for class 10 and II PU preparatory exams.

Though the department had planned a similar move for classes 5 and 8 in 2024, private schools, which were brought under the proposal, challenged the move in Supreme Court. The top court stayed the exam.

Though this proposal is only for govt schools, private schools are free to sign up. "We hope to introduce it for I PU students next year," the official said. As per the Unified District Information System of Education 2024, Karnataka has 27,000 schools offering classes 6-9.

A schoolteacher said the department should send in model papers and blueprints so that schools will prepare the ground for final exams. "This will also bring in desired seriousness," she said.

## Activist Snehamayi Krishna arrested

**Bengaluru:** Following a complaint by ex-Mysuru Urban Development Authority commissioner BA Natesh, Central Crime Branch sleuths Friday arrested Snehamayi Krishna, an activist whose fight against alleged irregularities in Muda resulted in CM Siddaramaiah and family returning 14 sites. Natesh accused Krishna of defaming him through false news.

Earlier, Krishna announced filing complaints with Enforcement Directorate and Income Tax departments, stating Natesh bribed around Rs 1.6 crore for his promotion. TNN

## NIA announces ₹5 lakh reward for fugitive terror suspect

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** National Investigation Agency probing the Bengaluru prison radicalisation-terror module case, announced Rs 5-lakh reward for those sharing information and helping to arrest Junaid Ahmed, alias Junaid, alias JD, alias Janna, suspected to be hiding abroad.

Cops had seized hand grenades and walkies talkies from Junaid's house at Nagashettihalli, north Bengaluru, during a raid.

Junaid, who entered police records on charges of dealing with red sanders, is among the key persons behind the prison radicalization and terror conspiracy cases linked to Lashkar-e-Taiba in 2023.

**Accused conspired to carry out explosion: Probe**

The accused, who were mostly undertrials, were conspiring to carry out explosions in the city. They were tutored and guided by T Naseer, prime accused in the July 2008 Bengaluru serial blast.

In all, 12 suspects, including Junaid, were chargesheeted in the case.

The chargesheet names Junaid's mother, Anees Fathima, among the co-accused. It details how she procured hand grenades and walkie-talkies, and facilitated communications between various terror outfits and members.

Citizens can call NIA (080-29510900, 8904241100) or visit info.blr.nia@gov.in if they have more information.

# Will Bengaluru-Goa Vande Bharat be reality? Rly board to study proposal

Anush.S@timesofindia.com

**Bengaluru:** Will a Vande Bharat ride between Bengaluru and Goa be a possibility? South Western Railway (SWR), Southern Railway and Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL) approached the railway board earlier this month with a proposal for such a train between Yeshwantpur and Madgaon.

According to the proposal accessed by **TOI**, the train will run six days a week, departing from Yeshwantpur at 6:05am. It will run for more than 12 hours before reaching Madgaon in Goa by 7:15pm.

Between the stations, there will be four stoppages — Hassan, Sakleshpur, Subrahmanya Road and Padil.

> **"The railway board is yet to make a final decision on the stoppages and has not issued a coaching notification. SWR submitted inputs and is awaiting a decision**
>
> MANJUNATH KANAMADI
> SWR chief PRO

For comparison, Yeswanthpur-Vasco da Gama Express takes nearly 15 hours to cover 700km.

While a detailed tentative timetable was proposed, it could be subject to changes, and the railway board has asked the zones to consider starting the train after 6:30am.

Despite KSR Bengaluru being the most preferred station in the city, SWR officials pointed to a lack of maintenance slots there.

Due to the long distance between the terminal stations, the service will require two Vande Bharat rakes to run simultaneously.

However, the railway board expects the train to run at an average speed of less than 50 kmph. In the ghat sections, it could become further limited to 30 kmph. For a train capable of cruising above 160 kmph, the journey between Bengaluru and Goa will still be slow.

## Murder accused gets 7-yr RI for attacking cops

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** A court held a 33-year-old murder accused guilty of attacking policemen with a knife and injuring one of them when they tried to stop him from running away. Mohammed Saleem, a resident of Govindapura, was sentenced to seven years' rigorous imprisonment with a fine of Rs 25,000.

An attempt-to-murder case was registered against Saleem on June 24, 2021, when he hit a constable on his elbow with a knife.

Police were searching for him in connection with an earlier murder case. "On the night of June 24, 2021, cops spotted Saleem with his associates in a car at Hennur traffic signal. Saleem stopped the vehicle near the forest office in HBR Layout and started running. Police caught him. When they tried to detain him, he attacked the personnel," DCP (east) Vikram Amte told **TOI**. "We had ample evidence at crime scene," he said.

# Tension after Sangolli Rayanna statue defaced

Ravindra Uppar | TNN

Tension prevailed in Marche village, Belagavi taluk, late Thursday after residents found a black liquid smeared on the statue of freedom fighter Sangolli Rayanna. Police deployed additional personnel as a precautionary measure.

Residents alerted authorities after spotting the defacement. City police commissioner Bhushan Borase, DCP Narayan Baramani and senior officials inspected the site. Police said it is yet to be confirmed whether miscreants had poured black oil or if sap from a nearby tree had fallen on the statue.

The statue was cleaned immediately, and CCTV footage from a camera about 10 metres away is being examined. A case has been registered at Belagavi Rural police station.

The incident drew sharp condemnation from Kannada organisations. Deepak Gudaganatti, district president of Karnataka Rakshana Vedike (Narayana Gowda faction), demanded swift action and warned of protests if the culprits are not traced.

LEFT SCARRED

Residents said the 5-foot-tall black statue, installed three years ago, had never faced such an incident. With linguistic sensitivity and the coincidence with Chhatrapati Shivaji Jayanti, police are probing all angles. The statue stands under a ficus tree (basari gida) in front of the local town panchayat.

## Bagalkot SP: It all started with stone throwing

▶ Continued from page 1

Besides making arrests, "police are conducting investigation to identify the cause of the incident and all those responsible (behind it). Strict action will be taken against the perpetrators. Let us stand together to preserve peace and communal harmony in our state," he wrote on X.

Bagalkot SP Sidharth Goel said the incident began around 10pm Thursday, shortly before a procession reached a mosque. "Prayers at the mosque had concluded by around 9.30pm, though a few people were still inside at the time," he said.

"An individual threw stones which hit the public and police personnel. No serious injuries were reported. Tanveer Hawaldar, 28, from the city's Navanagar, has been arrested as prime accused. Following the incident, the procession continued peacefully. To maintain law and order, prohibitory orders have been imposed," he added.

# No sticky paste in gums, govt dental college in city uses digital 3D scans

@timesofindia.com

**Bengaluru:** For years, a visit to the dentist meant biting into a tray of thick paste — putty — as it slowly hardened around the teeth, often triggering gagging and anxiety. At the Govt Dental College and Research Institute in Bengaluru, that routine is changing.

Patients are now being examined with a digital intraoral scanner that captures detailed images of the teeth and gums within seconds. The scans are converted into precise three-dimensional (3D) models, making the process quicker and cleaner, particularly for procedures such as crowns, bridges and implants.

The institute's digital dentistry centre was equipped with a 3D scanner and 3D printer about eight months ago through a Rs 35-crore corporate social responsibility grant from Adani Power. Dentists say the facility allows the entire workflow, from scanning and design to milling and 3D printing, to be completed on campus.

**3D MODELS:** Patients are examined with a digital intra-oral scanner that captures images of the teeth and gums in seconds

More than 100 patients with oral and maxillofacial conditions have already benefited from the technology.

"We are pioneers with this digital setup in the state's govt facilities. The models can even serve as a guide for practice before surgeries," said Dr Anoop Nair, associate professor at the institute.

He added digital images can be transmitted instantly to laboratories anywhere in the world for model fabrication. On campus, depending on the requirement, dentists either 3D-print the models or use milling, a method that shapes restorations from a solid block of material such as zirconia. This eliminates the need for plaster of Paris models traditionally used in dental labs.

The technology is also aiding complex reconstructive work. In one recent case, doctors used the digital system to create an acrylic artificial eye for a pre-teen boy who had lost one after being stabbed with a needle. In another instance, a woman who lost an ear due to severe facial burns is receiving a mirror-image prosthetic ear.

At present, the digital tools are mainly used in cases requiring high precision or for patients who can afford the Rs 3,000 laboratory charge for milled models. However, faculty members hope manual impressions and plaster models can eventually be phased out.

Dr Nair said the benefits could be significant beyond Bengaluru as well. "These tools can be a boon in rural areas. Scanning is faster, and the images can immediately be sent to laboratories, reducing the need for patients to travel to cities multiple times for measurements for dentures or crowns," he said.

# TIMES interact

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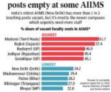
**20 NEW AIIMS SHOULD PROGRESSIVELY ESTABLISH WORLD STANDARDS IN PATIENT CARE: JP NADDA**

STATOISTICS A slice of life in numbers

## 6 out of every 10 faculty posts empty at some AIIMS

India's oldest AIIMS (New Delhi) has more than 1 in 3 teaching posts vacant, but it's mostly the newer campuses which urgently need more staff




*Answer to Lok Sabha question dated Feb 11, 2026; Source: Ministry of Health and family welfare

## After local poll loss, candidates ask voters to return cash, gifts

Karide.Mahesh
@timesofindia.com

**Hyderabad:** A week after the municipal election results were declared, an unusual post-poll drama is unfolding across several towns in Telangana. Defeated candidates are allegedly going door-to-door, asking residents to return cash and gifts they distributed during the campaign.

What began as quiet requests has, in many places, escalated into heated confrontations. Some videos showing some of the defeated candidates or their relatives asking for refunds have gone viral, fuelling public outrage.

Reports of clashes between candidates and residents have surfaced from Medchal Malkajgiri, Khammam, Suryapet, Peddapalli, Bhadradri Kothagudem, Jagtial and Nizamabad districts. In several instances, residents allegedly pushed back, stating they never demanded the money or gifts given voluntarily, and it was not correct for these to be returned.

On the eve of polling on Feb 10, candidates in some municipalities and wards allegedly distributed between Rs 2,500 and Rs 3,000 for each vote in a last-minute attempt to sway voters. In addition to cash, pressure cookers and sarees were allegedly given to women voters. After losing, some candidates — across party lines as well as independents — began suspecting that certain colonies had not supported them.

## Parental nod to be a must to register Guj marriages

### Move Aimed To Curb 'Love Jihad', Explains BJP

Times News Network

CONSENT GETS SOCIAL

**Gandhinagar:** The BJP govt in Gujarat has now proposed 'anti-love jihad' amendments to marriage registration rules that would require couples to inform their parents before registering their union — a move welcomed by AAP, met with silence by Congress and flagged by legal experts as a potential constitutional violation.

► Related report, Page 9

Under the draft rules introduced in the assembly Friday, couples seeking to register their marriage will have to submit an undertaking stating whether they have informed their parents.

The assistant registrar will notify the parents of both bride and groom electronically, including over WhatsApp, or through physical communication. Registration will be granted in 30 days after verification, with all submitted details uploaded to a govt portal.

Deputy CM Harsh Sanghavi, who introduced the proposed changes, said the govt had nothing against "love marriage" but couldn't allow deception in the name of mutual consent. "Innocent girls are being trapped and such practices are spreading like termites in society. Salim masquerading as Suresh will not be allowed," he said.

Citing instances from Panchmahal, Sanghavi said investigations were ordered after nikaah certificates were allegedly issued in villages where there was no mosque or even a single Muslim family.

In villages such as Kankodakui and Nathkuva, hundreds of such certificates were allegedly issued by talati-cum-mantris (village panchayat secretaries), he said.

BJP MLA Lavingji Thakor, a strong proponent of stricter norms, said the move would benefit families of all communities. Congress stayed mum.

## JNU VC sparks controversy with 'Bahujan myself' remark

Sugandha.Jha
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**New Delhi:** An alleged casteist remark by JNU vice-chancellor Shantishree Dhulipudi Pandit, that Dalits and Blacks "cannot progress by being permanently a victim or playing the victim card", has sparked controversy on the campus, with student groups demanding her resignation and calling for a countrywide protest on Saturday. Pandit responded to the allegations by saying she is a Bahujan herself.

The VC made the statement on a podcast published on Feb 16 while speaking about UGC's 2026 Equity (Anti-Discrimination) Regulations, which seek to address caste-based discrimination in higher educational institutions. The regulations have been stayed by the Supreme Court following protests by some upper-caste groups.

During the podcast, which has been widely circulated on social media, Pandit said: "UGC regulations are unnecessary.... UGC regulation is irrational.... You cannot progress by being permanently a victim or playing the victim card. This was done for the Blacks; the same thing was brought for Dalits here... the question is, by making somebody the devil, it is not easy to progress... It is a temporary type of drug."

## Indian-origin driver held in US for fatal crash

**Bathinda:** US Immigration and Customs Enforcement has arrested an Indian-origin semi-truck driver with roots in Punjab after he allegedly jumped a red light and caused a three-vehicle pile-up that killed a 64-year-old man at Hendricks County in Indiana on Feb 18.

Sukhdeep Singh, 35, is the fourth Indian-origin person and third Sikh immigrant to be arrested in the US in last six months for alleged rash driving, leading to crashes in which nine people died. TNN

## Harry Boxer makes threat calls to Ranveer

Ahmed.Ali@timesofindia.com

**Mumbai:** Actor **Ranveer Singh** received multiple threat calls from Harry Boxer, a member of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, making an extortion demand for Rs 20 crore, the FIR registered by police on Tuesday stated. An officer said they registered the offence after getting confirmation from the Punjab and Haryana police that the voice belonged to Boxer.

Police have issued a lookout circular against Boxer, a Rajasthan native believed to be holed up in Canada. Police said the complaint was lodged by Singh's social media handler and manager Vijay Subramanian.

The complaint states that Subramanian received two to three threat calls from an international number on Feb 10. When he stopped taking the calls, the caller who identified himself as Harry Boxer left three voice notes demanding Rs 20 crore.

## Sengar brother told to surrender over custodial death

**New Delhi:** The Delhi high court Friday asked Jaideep Sengar, brother of Unnao rape case convict Kuldeep Sengar, to surrender before prison authorities in connection with his conviction in the custodial death case of the survivor's father.

A bench of Justices Navin Chawla and Ravinder Dudeja was hearing a plea by the convict for further extension of interim bail upon suspension of the 10-year sentence. The HC pointed out that the interim bail granted to Jaideep on July 3, 2024 for two months on medical grounds was last extended in April 2025.

As Jaideep's counsel urged the bench to extend the period of his release on account of his health, the bench said, "Before we proceed to consider his application for further extension of suspension of sentence, we require the appellant to first surrender." TNN

## Ex-UP junior engr, wife get death for abusing 33 boys, selling their videos

Pathikrit.Chakraborty
@timesofindia.com

**Lucknow:** A Pocso court in UP's Banda sentenced to death Friday a former govt junior engineer and his wife for sexually abusing 33 boys over a decade, some as young as three, and selling videos and photographs of their torture on the dark web to customers across 47 countries.

Additional district judge PK Mishra said convicts Ram Bhawan (50) and Durgawati (47) inflicted such physical and psychological trauma on the survivors – some required hospitalisation for injuries to their genitals and a few developed squint eyes – that their crimes deserved to be categorised as "rarest of rare".

"The sheer scale of this victimisation across multiple districts, combined with the extreme moral turpitude of the convicts, marks this as a crime of such an exceptional and heinous nature that it leaves no room for reformation, necessitating the ultimate judicial deterrent to meet the ends of justice," states the sentencing order. The court directed the UP govt to pay Rs 10 lakh in compensation to each of the 33 victims.

Ram Bhawan, who worked in the UP jalkal (waterworks) department, and Durgawati would lure children by offering them access to online video games along with money and gifts.

The couple remained active in Banda and Chitrakoot from 2010 till 2020, when Interpol got CBI involved in an investigation into dissemination of content showing child sexual abuse on the dark web.


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I, MENAKA S w/o SRINIVASA REDDY V residing at 454, Kanava Nagar, Dandipalya, Nelamangala, Bangalore Rural Dist- 562123 hereby state that in my husband passport my name is mentioned as MANAKA instead of MENAKA S. Name has been rectified as above vide affidavit dated 20-02-2026 before Notary R. Lakshminarayana, Bengaluru

I, SMITHA VINODH FERNANDO, W/o VINODH FERNANDO residing at K-603, Assetz Marq 2.0, Whitefield-Hoskote Main Road, Kannamangala, Bengaluru - 560067 changed my name to SMITHA VINODH vide affidavit dated 20-02-2026, sworn before Notary Rajanna S.M

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# For some Guj groups, parental consent for marriage written in 'constitution'

## Updates in marriage rules proposed by state govt give role to parents, but caste and village bodies have drawn up their own 'codes' laying down fines, boycott, etc for those marrying outside the community

Ashish.Chauhan@timesofindia.com

Gujarat govt's proposal that couples must inform their parents before tying the knot as yet to become law, but 'orders' to that effect are already in force in parts of Gujarat, where some villages and communities have come out with detailed 'codes' intended to govern how their members marry.

The amendments proposed in the state assembly on Friday reflect demands and actions being pushed on the ground, with scattered village resolutions burdening into community-level 'constitutions' — resolutions and declarations that threaten couples who marry for love with boycott, ostracism, and exclusion from public life.

From gram sabhas in Kheda district to caste organisations of Patidars and Thakors, the consensus driving such declarations is that marriage without parental consent threatens tradition, destabilises social order and endangers women.

### 'Violate Ban, Face Boycott'

The gram sabha in Nanal village in Mahudha taluka recently passed a resolution imposing total social boycott on couples who marry despite opposition from their families. Such couples are barred from community facilities, religious gatherings and social functions. The resolution also caps wedding and funeral expenses, prohibits DJs and "objectionable songs", and imposes fines for violations.

Bharat Solanki, the village sarpanch, said rising cases of marriage disputes had led to the decision. "We are a village of 5,000, mostly Thakors and Darbars. There have been sagotra (intra-clan) marriages, which are not permissible. When a couple elopes, it puts parents in an embarrassing position. As these incidents have been rising, we decided to declare a ban on such marriages. Violate the ban, and you face boycott."

The rules, Solanki insisted, spare no one. All communities in the village — including OBC and SC families, which form a minority — are required to comply. "The rules are for everyone. We are not targeting one single group. Violators pay Rs 21,000 fine and are excluded from village gatherings," he said.

Similar 'rules' are surfacing elsewhere, signalling a broader social churn. Village elders argue that

A Patidar community meeting last month in Mehsana. Leader of a Patidar group said they want strict laws against 'sham marriages'

couples who elope — their union is known locally as 'Bhagedu lagan' — disrupt social harmony and bring dishonour to their families.

Geni Thakor, Congress MP from Banaskantha who spearheaded the Thakor community's campaign against such unions, said "the decision was taken because (they) kept seeing fraudulent marriages".

"A girl marrying outside her community weakens its social fabric. There have been instances where women are deceived by men, subjected to abuse and, in some cases, driven to suicide. Our aim is to protect our daughters," said Thakor, who also cited demographic factors, saying "the Patidar sex ratio is collapsing".

Following the proposed amendments, Thakor said she "was the first to raise the issue of 'Mangelu lagan' when the 'love jihad' bill (Gujarat Freedom of Religion (Amendment) Bill, 2021) was tabled in the assembly". She insisted that "99% of love marriages fail and bring misery to the girl". Asked about the basis for her claim, she said, "I have found this in villages; it might not be the case in big cities."

### 'Parents Should Have Say'

Among Patidars, opposition to such self-choice marriages has simmered for years. Lalji Patel, who heads the Sardar Patel Group (SPG), said the movement crystallised around parental anguish.

"During Covid, parents came to us, begging us to rescue daughters trapped in sham marriages," Patel said. "That is why we initiated these measures."



A notice issued in Nanal village in Kheda district last month laid down rules for conduct of wedding ceremonies and said couples who elope shall be ostracised

He said the SPG has been demanding that the legal age of marriage for women be raised from 18 to 21 even as he acknowledged that the Constitution allows adults to marry by choice. "But society matters. Parents are everything. They should have a say."

One pamphlet distributed by the Patidar Sena in Mehsana went beyond parental consent to call for sweeping changes, including parents' signatures on marriage registration for those aged 30 or younger. It also warned court marriages to be restricted to the bride's local jurisdiction, 40 to be the minimum age of witnesses, and couples who marry by choice after 30 to deposit Rs 10 lakh in their parents' accounts and forfeit any claim to family property.

"These demands are born from the pain parents have gone through," said Satish Patel, leader of the Mehsana Patidar Sena. Asked about the proposed rules, he said they were "not fully satisfied" as they also wanted "only blood relatives of girls to be signatories in the marriage registration as that ensures both parents and relatives bear full accountability for every such union".

Community leaders backing these demands insist they are not against people choosing whom they want to marry, but against secrecy and deception. "If a couple wants to marry and the parents agree, we have no objection," Lalji Patel said. "But parents must be involved. They're the ones who will always shield their daughters."

He, too, said the latest proposal falls short of their demands. "The govt speaks of merely 'informing' parents, as though a notification is sufficient. We have demanded that parents' consent be made mandatory."

### 'Love Marriage No Crime'

Legal experts warn that such measures strike at the core of constitutional freedoms but those who fall foul of such diktats say that they have to face serious difficulties in their day-to-day lives.

A Dalit man from northern Gujarat who married a woman from the Darbar community in 2015 — Darbars are placed higher in the social hierarchy — said they have had to change their residence at least 50 times and stay off social media to avoid being traced. Both hold postgraduate degrees but cannot find stable work.

"We've not been able to work at one place. We are dependent on daily wages even though we both hold PG degrees," the man said. "We took up jobs with NGOs, but my wife's family members or relatives traced me there during fieldwork."

Kaushik Parmar, a lawyer from Mehsana who works with inter-caste couples, slammed the proposed changes in the marriage registration rules, saying that "love marriage is not the enemy of society; it is the right of a free citizen". "Every attempt to curb it weakens the Constitution and strengthens caste hierarchies. If we truly want a progressive, equal, and just society, we must see love marriage not as a crime but as an instrument of social change. These rules amount to the murder of democracy," he said.

## Forceps found in Kerala woman's abdomen 6 yrs after surgery

**Alappuzha/Tpuram:** Discovery of an artery forceps in a woman's abdomen nearly five years after she underwent uterine surgery at Alappuzha Medical College Hospital in Vandanam has caused embarrassment to Kerala's public healthcare system. Dr Shahida L, associate professor in the obstetrics and gynaecology department at Thiruvananthapuram govt medical college, was suspended Friday.

Director of medical education, Dr Viswunathan K V, ordered the suspension based on a preliminary report submitted by Alappuzha medical college principal.

Usha Joseph (61), a MGNREGA worker from Punnapra in Alappuzha, had been suffering from recurring abdominal pain since the surgery for removal of a uterine fibroid on May 12, 2021. A four-member internal probe team found negligence on the part of the surgical team. The surgery performed under the unit of Dr Lalithambika Karunakaran, was led by Dr Shahida, then employed at Alappuzha hospital.

Dr Lalithambika, now retired, said even if forceps stayed inside the body for 50 years, there would be no problem. The negligence could have happened during an earlier surgery, she added. TNN

## HC junks woman's plea for hubby's salary info via RTI

**Jodhpur:** Rajasthan high court has dismissed a petition by a woman seeking salary details of her husband, a police department staffer, under RTI Act, reports Ajay Parmar. HC refused to interfere with a 2014 decision of Rajasthan State Information Commission denying the information, observing there was no illegality in it.

Rejecting Kanta Kumawat's plea, HC said service-related information was primarily a matter between employer and employee and fell within the ambit of personal information.

# Quitting tobacco cuts oral cancer risk: Study

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**The study also found that people who use both areca nut (supari) and tobacco had a higher absolute risk, almost two-fold, compared with those chewing tobacco without areca nut**

**Mumbai:** Does the cancer risk associated with smoking or chewing tobacco get reversed when one quits the habit?

In the first study looking at the effects of tobacco cessation among the Indian population, doctors from Tata Memorial Centre's ACTREC centre in Kharghar found that those who quit smoking for 10 years experienced a 61% reduction in oral cavity cancer risk compared with current smokers. Similarly, the risk dropped by 42% among tobacco chewers a decade after they quit the habit.

On Friday, lead author Dr Sharayu Mhatre of the TMC study, published in the International Journal of Cancer, said evidence clearly showed that all forms of tobacco are harmful, but quitting can lead to risk reversal to a great degree. However, ACTREC director Dr Pankaj Chaturvedi, who is one of the authors of the paper, qualified it by saying. "Too drop tobacco, but the risk never drops completely. It's best to avoid tobacco."

Tobacco use has been linked to a high risk of various forms of oral cancer, with India accounting for almost a third of the global burden of oral cancers. "Around 40% of the cancers in India are caused by tobacco," said Dr Chaturvedi.

Fellow author Dr Rajesh Dikshit said the new observational study was conducted across five TMC hospitals — at Parel, Navi Mumbai, Barshi, Varanasi and Guwahati — with 2,320 buccal mucosa cancer patients and 2,362 visitors, who accompanied the patients. "Our statistical analysis found that a longer duration of tobacco cessation was associated with a risk reduction of buccal mucosa cancer for smoking and chewing tobacco when compared with current users," he said.

TMC director Dr Sudeep Gupta said the findings could strengthen ongoing govt tobacco cessation programmes.

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**13th March, 2026**

Last date of forwarding of applications by the Nodal officers to PESB is by 17.00 hours on

**23rd March, 2026**

For details login to website
https://pesb.gov.in

# Realty Investment

READER ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE

# Be smart, live smart

**Tech-savvy homes promise convenience, security and energy savings with just a voice command. But do they justify the price tag? Let's find out**

Respedit.Bangalore
@timesofindia.com

Imagine walking into your home as the lights turn on automatically, your favourite playlist starts playing, and the AC adjusts to the perfect temperature—all without lifting a finger. Once considered a rarity, smart homes are becoming increasingly mainstream. However, behind the sleek gadgets and automated convenience lies a bigger question: do they truly improve your lifestyle, or are they just expensive bells and whistles for your abode?

### THE DIGITAL UPGRADE

At their core, smart home features aim to simplify our lives. Aditya N Shah, director of a real estate company, explains, "Many Indian homes today include smart locks, video doorbells, automated lighting and voice command systems. Premium residences might also feature power monitors and motion sensors."

These innovations are especially appealing to residents who value convenience. Anshuman Magazine, the chairman and CEO - India, South-East Asia, Middle East and Africa of a global commercial real estate services company, notes, "Smart homes are shifting from luxury to practical, value-driven offerings. Integrated systems that boost convenience, safety and energy efficiency are now highly relevant in fast-growing urban centres."

### BREAKING DOWN THE INVESTMENT

The cost of incorporating such features varies with one's priorities and preferences. Shah estimates that it can add anywhere between Rs 1.5 lakhs to Rs five lakhs to one's property purchase. "For middle-income buyers, it's more a lifestyle choice than a necessity," he adds.

Despite the investment, many homeowners don't use all the features. "Smart locks, lighting and video doorbells are used regularly, but more complex systems often go untouched once the novelty wears off," notes Shah. Internet issues, complex user interfaces and limited customer support can further reduce everyday usage.

### MEASURING THE EVERYDAY IMPACT

According to experts, smart features may help a home sell faster, especially in markets targeting younger buyers. However, they aren't yet dealmakers. "They serve as an additional benefit instead of a primary selling point. Home buyers still prioritise location, Vastu considerations and spaciousness," states Shah.

Nevertheless, there's a certain shift in the market. "Homes equipped with practical, well-integrated smart systems tend to attract better rentals and resale value. They resonate well with today's tech-aware buyers who prioritise comfort and efficiency," says Magazine.

For marketing professional Sneha Kulkarni, investing in smart features was about striking a balance. "I installed a video doorbell and smart bulbs a few months ago. I travel often, so remote access to home surveillance systems helps. However, I didn't go overboard with the upgrades, as some systems are too complicated and not worth the price," she shares.

Smart homes may not be essential for every buyer or renter, but they're far from a passing fad. With wider use, smart features are becoming part of everyday living. The key is choosing practical, efficient and easy-to-use systems.

# Setback for BJP as its rebel corporator Chaudhary is elected Bhiwandi mayor

Pradeep Gupta

**Bhiwandi:** In a setback to the BJP, its rebel corporator Narayan Chaudhary who broke away from the party along with five other corporators and aligned with the Congress-led 'Bhiwandi Secular Front' was on Friday elected mayor of the Bhiwandi-Nizampur Municipal Corporation (BNMC).

Contesting as mayoral candidate of the front, which included Congress with its 30 corporators and NCP (SP) with 12, Chaudhary got 48 votes in a House of 90 effectively reduced on Friday to 89 with one corporator abstaining. The BJP's nominee Sneha Mehul Patil got 16 votes, while Vilas Patil of the Konark Vikas Aghadi (KVA) polled 25 votes. Congress' Tariq Momin was elected deputy mayor; he got 43 votes.

Maharashtra BJP president Ravindra Chavan said action would be taken against Chaudhary and the other corporators who had allegedly defied the party whip during the mayoral polls.

In the Jan 15 civic elections, the Congress had emerged as the single largest party with 30 seats, followed by BJP (22), Shiv Sena (12), NCP-SP (12), SP (6), KVA (4), Bhiwandi Vikas Aghadi (3) and one independent. The Shiv Sena did not go with the BJP for the mayoral election.

While the BJP initially announced that Chaudhary would be its mayoral candidate, it later replaced him with Sneha Patil, resulting in Chaudhary's rebellion and his joining hands with Cong-NCP(SP), who agreed to field him as the mayoral candidate of the 'secular front.'

Interestingly, while the 'Bhiwandi Secular Front' secured 48 votes in the mayoral contest, with six of BJP's rebel corporators including Chaudhary voting for it, the Congress won the deputy mayor's post with 43 votes.

# Rahman to top court: Ready to give credit to Jr Dagar Bandhu

Times News Network

**New Delhi:** Celebrated music composer A R Rahman on Friday agreed before the Supreme Court to give credit to Ustad N Faiyazuddin Dagar and Ustad N Zahiruddin Dagar, popular as Junior Dagar Bandhu, in his song "Veera Raja Veera" during pendency of a suit by an heir of the Dagars accusing him of copyright infringement.

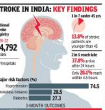
Appearing for Rahman, senior advocate A M Singhvi told a three-judge bench led by CJI Surya Kant that the music composer has always respected tradition and taken the spirit behind the court's suggestion during the last hearing. Singhvi said Rahman would insert a new credit line for the song to be displayed every time it is played on OTT or online channels.

The new credit line read: "Composition inspired by Dagarvani Tradition Dhrupad, first recorded as Shiva Stuti by late Ustad N Faiyazuddin Dagar and Late Ustad N Zahiruddin Dagar".

# 1 in 7 stroke patients in India under 45: Study

## Over Half Dead Or Disabled In Three Months

Anuja.Jaiswal
@timesofindia.com




**New Delhi:** One in seven stroke patients in India is younger than 45 years. Nearly two in five reach hospital more than 24 hours after the onset of symptoms. Three months later, more than half either die or suffer significant disability.

These findings come from India's largest hospital-based stroke registry analysis, published in 'International Journal of Stroke'. The study was led by Prashant Mathur of ICMR–National Centre for Disease Informatics and Research (ICMR-NCDIR), Bengaluru, along with investigators of the National Stroke Registry Programme.

The analysis reviewed 34,792 stroke cases recorded across 30 hospitals between 2020 and 2022, providing one of the most detailed national snapshots of stroke patterns, treatment gaps and outcomes.

The mean age of patients was 59.4 years, but 13.8% were under 45, underlining the growing burden of stroke among younger Indians. Nearly 68.4% were men and 72.1% came from rural areas, reflecting disparities in awareness, prevention and access to timely care. Hypertension was present in 74.5% of patients, making it the dominant risk factor.

Diabetes affected 27.3%, smokeless tobacco use 28.5%, tobacco smoking 22.6% and alcohol use 20.2%.

# HC flags Navy intel lapse over high-rise near INS Shikra

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**Mumbai:** Bombay high court on Friday, in an interim order, said prima facie there appeared to be a "failure of intelligence" by the Navy in noticing how a high rise came up in the vicinity of INS Shikra, the premier naval air station in south Mumbai. The HC did not immediately stay construction work on the high-rise, Jadhavji Mansion, but said work beyond the 18th floor would be at the developer's risk.

"We are surprised how the petitioner (the Navy's Local Military Authority in Mumbai) failed to notice a building gradually reaching ground plus 19 floors," Justices Ravindra Ghuge and Abhay Mantri said. The HC was hearing a naval petition filed through a commanding officer.

# U'khand HC grants bail to HIV+ prisoner

**Dehradun:** Uttarakhand high court has ordered the release of an HIV positive prisoner on bail after considering his deteriorating health condition and the lack of adequate medical facilities for such patients in the jail, **reports Pankul Sharma.**

In his bail plea, the prisoner said proper and timely medical treatment, including the provision of essential medications and constant monitoring, was not being provided in prison. He also stated that patients like him require specialised care and non-stop medical management, which may not be adequately provided in a prison, and any lapses could adversely impact their health.

After taking into account the specific medical condition of the prisoner, the single bench of Justice Ashish Naithani on Thursday said that, "at this stage, sufficient grounds exist for granting bail on medical grounds." "Accordingly, bail application is allowed," said the HC bench.


**Government of India, Ministry of Defence**
**Defence Research & Development Organization (DRDO)**
**Centre for Military Airworthiness & Certification (CEMILAC)**
**Marathahalli Colony, Bengaluru - 560 037**

Ref / Advt : CEMILAC/5925/HRD/RF 27 Jan 2026

**Advertisement for the Selection of Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) at CEMILAC, Bengaluru.**

Centre for Military Airworthiness & Certification (CEMILAC), is a regulatory body under DRDO, vested with the responsibility of Airworthiness Certification of Military Aircraft, Helicopter, Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), Aero-engines, Air launched Weapons and other Airborne Stores. Airworthiness function is implemented through the 14 Regional Centres of Military Airworthiness (RCMAs) located across India and CEMILAC acts as the corporate headquarters.

2. Applications are invited from candidates possessing below mentioned qualification: -

| S.N | Type of Fellowships | Number of fellowships | Subject Discipline | Minimum Educational Qualification |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Junior Research Fellow | 01 | Aeronautical Engineering | Graduate Degree in professional course (B.E / B.Tech) in relevant subject / discipline in first division with GATE<br>Or<br>Post Graduate Degree in professional course (M.E / M.Tech) in relevant subject / discipline in first division both at Graduate & Post Graduate Level. |

3. **Upper Age Limit:** 28 years as on last date for receipt of application. The upper age limit shall be relaxable to the candidates belonging to SC, ST & OBC (NCL) category as per Government Rules in Vogue.

4. **Emolument:** Stipend of Rs. 37,000/- per month plus HRA & Medical facilities are applicable as per rules.

5. **Tenure:** The initial offer shall be for a period of 02 years, extendable up to a maximum of 04 years as per provisions of scheme of Research Fellows in DRDO.

6. Type written application in the format enclosed (available at **www.drdo.gov.in —> careers**) along with self-attested copies of educational qualifications and experience, should reach **"The Chief Executive (Airworthiness)"**

Centre for Military Airworthiness & Certification (CEMILAC),
DRDO, Ministry of Defence,
Marathahalli Colony Post,
Bengaluru - 560 037

within 21 days from the date of publication of the advertisement in Employment News. The envelope containing application should be super scribed **"Application for JRF"** at the top left corner.

7. Candidates currently employed in Government / Public Sector Undertakings / Autonomous bodies will be required to produce NOC (No Objection Certificate) at the time of interview.

8. Candidates will be required to produce Certificates / Testimonials in original at the time of interview.

9. It may please be noted that offer of Fellowship does not confer on fellows any right for absorption in DRDO.

10. The candidates may be allowed to register for Ph.D with any University / Institution during the tenure of the fellowship.

11. Candidates attending the interview will be reimbursed to and fro sleeper class railway fare by the shortest route indicated in the application or the place where the journey is started whichever is less.

Sd/-
Head - HRD
for Chief Executive (Airworthiness)

**APPLICATION FOR RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP IN DRDO**

1. Name (in Block letters) : ____
2. Father's / Husband's Name : ____
3. (a) Marital Status (Married / Single) : ____ (b) Nationality: ____
4. (a) Category (GEN/SC/ST/OBC/PH) : ____ (c) Date of Birth: ____
(c) Age as on date of application: Years ____ Months ____ Days ____

Paste recent photograph

5. Address for Communication: ____
State: ____ Pin Code: ____
Contact details: Landline (with STD code) ____ Mobile No. ____
Email Address: ____
6. Permanent Residential Address: ____
State: ____ Pin Code: ____
7. Educational Qualification (from SSC/Matric onwards. Self-attested copies to be enclosed)

| Exam passed | Subject(s) | University/Board | Year of passing | Division / Class | % Marks |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

8. Brief description of the Project Work carried out during Graduation / Post Graduation Level ____
9. Experience:

| Name of the organization | Period of Service | | Reasons for leaving |
|---|---|---|---|
| | From | To | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

10. Whether Qualified in UGC/CSIR/NET/GATE Examinations: YES / NO
If yes, give details (proof to be enclosed)
11. Have you ever been interviewed in any DRDO Unit, please give details : YES / NO
(Note: Candidate already awarded JRF positions in any of the DRDO Units earlier are not eligible to apply again)
12. Any other information:

**DECLARATION:** I hereby declare that the above particulars furnished are correct and no information is suppressed.

Place:
Date:

CBC 10301/11/0173/2526 (Signature of the candidate)


# One incident of husband slapping his wife not cruelty: HC

**Ahmedabad:** "One incident of a husband slapping his wife for staying overnight at her parental home without informing him would not be counted as cruelty," the Gujarat high court ruled recently while setting aside the conviction of a man for cruelty and harassment to wife and abetment to her suicide, **reports Saeed Khan.**

According to case details, the couple got married in 1995 and lived in Valsad district. The wife died by suicide in May 1996, after which her father filed a police complaint accusing the husband of cruelty and harassment that allegedly drove her to suicide.

The complainant alleged that the husband came often home late at night after attending musical parties and beat his daughter. Once, he came to his house when she stayed there overnight and slapped her for staying at her parents' house without informing him.

# Maha man kills mom over bitter gourd curry

Mazhar Ali | TNN

**Chandrapur:** Argument over bitter gourd curry for dinner ended in tragedy when a 37-year-old man allegedly fatally assaulted his 65-year-old mother in a village in Maharashtra's Chandrapur district. Jagdish Petkule was arrested shortly after the alleged murder late Thursday and a case registered.

Preliminary police findings suggest an argument broke out between Jagdish and his mother, Sumitra, over the dinner dish. The quarrel escalated and he allegedly repeatedly kicked and punched her. She is believed to have succumbed on the spot. Police sources indicated Jagdish had a history of alcohol dependence.

# Man acquitted by SC relying on a 1931 HC and its own '69 ruling

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**New Delhi:** A six-year-old girl child went missing after last seen with her step-father. When police arrested him eight days later, he led them to the place where the girl's charred remains were recovered. The Supreme Court found this evidence weak and acquitted him of the charge for murdering the girl.

Finding no other evidence to link the man to the murder, except the 'last seen with' theory propounded by a neighbour and he leading the police to the place where remnants of her bones were recovered, a bench of justices Sanjay Kumar and K Vinod Chandran acquitted the man and said, botched up investigations often leave many questions unanswered "and in the present case, the murder of a six-year-old girl went unpunished and her stepfather was incarcerated on mere conjectures."

In the case from Chhattisgarh, what tilted the scale of justice towards the step father Rohit Jangde is the peculiarity of interpretation by SC in earlier judgments on the admissibility of a statement by an accused, which leads to discovery of fact relating to crime — in this case recovery of remnants of the girl's body, while in custody and when not in custody.

More than 65 years ago, SC had ruled that the statement of an accused, only when he is in custody, leading to discovery of facts relating to the crime would be admissible evidence. Justices Kumar and Chandran also relied on a similar nearly 100 year-old ruling of Calcutta high court.

Interestingly in the 1931 judgment, then CJ of Calcutta HC had expressed anguish that the law permitted reliance on a statement made to police which led to discovery of fact only when the person who gives such information is in police custody.

# *475-yr-old Vasai cathedral wins Unesco Award*

Bella.Jaisinghani
@timesofindia.com

**Mumbai:** A community-funded effort to restore a 475-year-old Cathedral in Vasai has reaped a rich reward. The conservation project of Our Lady of Grace Cathedral in Papdy village received the prestigious Award of Merit at the 2025 Unesco Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation announced in Bangkok Friday. China and Japan won top honours.

The stone structure, built without cement, has weathered centuries of wear and tear to emerge stronger and immensely beautiful. The cost of the restoration was approximately Rs 4.5 crore, and the local population contributed with an open heart.

The Unesco citation read, "The conservation of the Our Lady of Grace Cathedral, a tangible testament to the establishment of Catholicism in Maharashtra, is noteworthy for reviving a sixteenth-century structure that embodies the architectural legacy of the Portuguese colonial architecture in India. Of particular significance is the thoughtful restoration of the cathedral's interior..."

# 70-year-old convict reaches court on a cot to surrender

**Varanasi:** A 70-year-old man convicted in a check bounce case reached on a cot to surrender before the additional chief judicial magistrate, Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh, on Thursday. He pleaded he was ill, physically weak, and unable to walk.

The court arranged a vehicle which took him to jail even as he lay on the cot.

Yadav had borrowed some money for business and issued a cheque for repayment, which bounced. He was convicted by the Ghazipur court in the case and directed to surrender. He later challenged the order before the Lucknow bench of Allahabad high court. The HC refused to entertain his plea and directed him to abide by the lower court order. TNN

## NATION DIGEST

### Govt defends delay in endorsing UN action

The govt defended the delay in endorsing a condemnation by 100-odd countries and international organisations at the UN of Israel's recent actions in the West Bank, saying this wasn't a negotiated document as is usually the case in the UN. It also pointed to the fact that a number of countries had similarly associated themselves with it after the statement was issued.

### Arms, ammo recovered near LoC in Kashmir

A joint team of the Army and Rajouri Police recovered a cache of arms and ammunition during a search operation in Nathua Tibba area in Sunderbani sector along the LoC in J&K's Rajouri district on Friday. The searches under Op Jwala came a day after security forces foiled an infiltration bid. The recovery included an AK-47 rifle, two magazines, along with ammunition.

### 5 awarded life term for 'moral policing murder'

An additional district and sessions court in Manjeri town of Kerala's Malappuram district on Friday sentenced five men to life imprisonment for beating to death a 42-year-old person in Mankada village in a 2016 moral policing case. The mob lynching was akin to terrorism, judge Thusar M observed while pronouncing the verdict.

### B'day bash triggers 1km jam; ambulance stuck

An ambulance was among several vehicles stranded for about 30 minutes when a group of men celebrating a birthday allegedly blocked the Ambikapur-Banaras state highway in Chhattisgarh on Feb 16 night, leading to a nearly 1km-long traffic congestion. Chhattisgarh HC had ordered authorities to take strict action against activities that disrupt traffic, including birthday celebrations, stunts, etc. The court had directed authorities to ensure that the enforcement should deter repeat offences.


10301/23/2526
OCAC
**ODISHA COMPUTER APPLICATION CENTRE**
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**
**Enq.No.-OCAC-NEGP-INFRA-0045-2025-26016**
Odisha Computer Application Centre (OCAC) invites Request for Proposal (RFP) for Selection of Agency towards Establishment of Video Conferencing (VC) Infrastructure at all ULBs under Housing & Urban Development Department, Govt. of Odisha and all Zilla Parisad (DRDA) through OSWAN Backbone. For details please visit websites **www.ocac.in & www.odisha.gov.in**.
The bid shall be submitted in electronic mode only in the portal **https://enivida.odisha.gov.in** latest by **20.03.2026, 2:00 P.M.** OCAC reserves the right to accept/reject any/ all bids without assigning any reason thereof.
**General Manager(Admin), OCAC**, Plot No.-N-1/7-D, Acharya Vihar, P.O.-RRL, Bhubaneswar-751013, Ph.-2567280/ 2567064/2567295



राजस्थान सरकार
नागरिक विमानन निदेशालय
E-Mail dcarajasthan@gmail.com
File No. F. DCA/Accts/Rate Contract Helicopter/2025/1321 Date:- 13-02-2026
**NOTICE INVITING BID**
**Tender ID No. 2026_CIVAV_538503**
Bids are invited for Hiring of Twin Engine VFR and IFR capable Helicopter with seating capacity of 05-06/07-8 passengers (excluding crew) on rate contract, as & when required basis for a period of 02 years for Travel of VVIPs (estimated value of Rs. 10.00 Crore) from interested bidders upto 1700 Hrs. on or before 23-03-2026. Other particulars of the bid may be seen on the procurement portals (https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in or https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in).
DIPR/C/3819/2026 Director



**Office of the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground water Development, Division, Kashipur Circle, Shivamogga-577204.**
Dated: 19.02.2026 CALL-1/CALL3 IFT No.: 49/2025-26.
SECTION 1-INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDERS KW- 1/2&3
The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation &Ground water Development Division, Shivamogga invites tenders in Standard Bid Document KW-1/2 and KW-3 through kppp-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka, viz.,http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from eligible contractors for the works of coming under M.I sub-divisions SORABA/SHIKARIPURA/SHIMOGA amounting from Rs.4.23 lakhs to Rs. 80.64 lakhs. Period of downloading tender documents from e-procurement portal: From 19.02.2026 to 26.02.2026 upto 17-00hrs. Any other details may be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours on all working days. Details published on the e- procurement website @ http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in are final.
**Sd/- Executive Engineer M.I & G.W.D. Division, Shimoga.**



एसजेवीएन लिमिटेड **SJVN Limited**
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of H.P.)
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)**
NIT No: SJVN/CC-Delhi/LO/C&P/4459 Date: 20.02.2026
SJVN Limited hereby invites **ONLINE** bids from the eligible bidders for **"Supply, Installation, configuration, testing, commissioning and maintenance of Next Generation Firewalls (NGFW) in High Availability (HA) mode for SJVN, New Delhi Office for a period of 6 Years"**. The NIT Document can be downloaded from the websites www.sjvn.nic.in, www.eprocure.gov.in and GEM portal (Bid No. GEM/2026/B/7269723 dt. 20/02/2026) from 20.02.2026 to 13.03.2026 till 14:00 Hrs(IST). The Bid is to be submitted ONLINE on the GEM Portal i.e. https://gem.gov.in. The prospective bidders are requested to remain updated through above mentioned websites for any clarification or notification concerned with this NIT, as no further information will be published in respect of this NIT through any other media.
**Last Date & Time for submission of bids :** 13.03.2026 till 14:00 Hrs
**Date & Time of opening of bids :** 13.03.2026 at 15:00 Hrs
Manager (C&P) 6th Floor, Tower-I, NBCC Office Complex, East Kidwai Nagar New Delhi-110023 Ph.: 011-61901850



**S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER**
**e-Tender Notice No. 4626-GRC-CE-C-BO-06-2026.** For & on behalf of President of India, Chief Engineer (CON)/S/Garden Reach invites e-tender for the following work : Following tender has been uploaded on website **www.ireps.gov.in** The tender will be closed at 12.00 hrs. on due date. **Brief Description of Works** : Balance work for Dumetra-Rourkela steel Plant Connectivity-Execution of Earthwork in formation, Construction of Minor Bridges, Drains works, P. Way linking works, Supply of P.Way fittings, Transportation of P.Way Materials, Supply of Ballast, Construction Goomties, approach road and other allied works. **Approx. Cost : ₹ 54.75 Crore, Bid Security : ₹ 28,88,200/-. Completion Period :** 12 months. **Closing Date :** 18.03.2026. Interested tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details/ description/specification of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these items will be accepted. **NB : "Prospective Bidders may regularly visit www.ireps.gov.in to participate in all other tenders."** (PR-1215)

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TNRERA/30/LO/0272/2026


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# PM puts India-focused innovation, human oversight at core of AI drive

## Modi At Startup Meet: Fairness, Transparency Are Non-Negotiable

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@timesofindia.com

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday held a roundtable with deeptech startups and underscored the govt's push to expand AI adoption with strong data governance, human oversight and India-focused innovation — particularly across healthcare, education and citizen services.

AI summit

The roundtable brought together founders and CEOs from 16 deeptech startups, including Adalat AI, BrainSightAI, Rubrik, SatSure, Credo AI, Eka Care, Glean, Innogle, Invideo, Miko, Origin, Rasen, Supernova and Sypha AI.

It came amid the PM's hectic schedule Friday that included seven bilateral meetings, including with the leaders of Liechtenstein, Slovak Republic, Sri Lanka and Mauritius, apart from discussions with UN secretary general Antonio Guterres, Open AI CEO Sam Altman and Qualcomm boss Cristiano Amon.

Emphasising that fairness, transparency and meaningful human oversight must remain non-negotiable in the design and deployment of AI, PM Modi echoed principles that align closely with Adalat AI's philosophy, said Arghya Bhattacharya, cofounder of the company, which is building India's end-to-end justice tech stack to reduce delays, streamline workflows, and improve access.

DEEPTECH DIALOGUE: Prime Minister Modi during a roundtable with the CEOs of startups at Seva Teerth, in New Delhi on Friday

Bipul Sinha, cofounder and CEO of US-based cybersecurity firm Rubrik, said the roundtable underscored Modi's vision for India's digital future and highlighted the potential to deploy AI at scale in sectors such as agritech, healthcare and education. "He has a granular view of the areas where AI can make a real impact and difference — from space tech to agriculture."

"PM was very buoyant about India's deeptech ecosystem. He expressed excitement about both deep research AI firms and applied AI companies, and said he looks forward to seeing firms that 'build in India, build for India, and build from India for the world,'" Prateep Basu, founder and CEO of Bengaluru-based SatSure, told **TOI**.

India's deeptech sector — spanning defence, robotics, humanoids, and emerging technologies — is at an inflection point and is projected to grow 2.5 times to $27-33 billion by 2030, driven by rapid advances in defence technology and robotics, according to Redseer Strategy Consultants. It estimated the deeptech market at $9-12 billion in 2024-25.

The report identified defence deeptech as one of the strongest drivers of growth.

# Impact of AI on labour market will be like 'tsunami': IMF chief

Times News Network

IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva during a recent visit to Humayun's Tomb

**New Delhi:** The impact of AI on the labour market will be like a "tsunami" and can create havoc in financial markets, International Monetary Fund chief Kristalina Georgieva said on Friday, while estimating that it can lift global growth by 0.8%.

The IMF managing director estimated that nearly 40% of jobs in emerging markets and 60% in developed economies may be impacted by AI.

"It will eliminate some jobs while enhancing others, and we have no idea how to help people find their place in the AI economy. There should be mindful efforts to manage the transition," she said.

Georgieva also cautioned that AI could widen inequality between individuals and countries, with some benefiting significantly while others are left behind. "If AI gets loose, it can create havoc in financial markets. But on balance, my appeal to all of us is to embrace the opportunities, be mindful of the risks, and manage them," she said.

While being optimistic about the tech, Georgieva cautioned against "sugarcoating" the impact of AI and called for striking a balance between building and managing AI as a 'force for good or evil'.

On the positive side, she said: "AI can lift global growth by almost a percentage point. It will mean that the world will grow faster than it did before the Covid pandemic. And that is fantastic for creating more opportunities, more jobs. This is the magnitude that we see for India, and it would mean that India's Viksit Bharat is achievable."

She said AI creates potential for countries that go fast on digital infrastructure, skills, and adoption of AI, and countries must embrace the opportunities, while being mindful of the risks.

Georgieva identified three risks: making countries and world less fair (for tech haves and have nots), financial stability as it may impact markets and displacement of jobs.

Even earlier, IMF had cautioned on AI, arguing that some of the US investments boom in AI may turn out to be a bubble, like the dot-com bust at the start of the millennium.

## Bits&Bytes

### Andhra inks 7 MoUs to build Quantum-AI hub

Andhra govt Friday signed seven MoUs at the India AI Impact Summit to boost skills and infrastructure in quantum computing and AI, in presence of CM **N Chandrababu Naidu**. The agreements aim at positioning the state as a global Quantum-AI hub and give international recognition to the proposed Quantum Valley in Amaravati

### Invest in research, retain PhDs to lead in AI: LeCun

Calling India's AI ecosystem "enormous and impressive", AI pioneer **Yann LeCun**, former chief AI scientist at Meta, Friday said the country must sharply increase investment in research and retain top doctoral talent to emerge as a global AI leader. Speaking at AI Impact Summit 2026, LeCun stressed the need for strong funding for academic research and PhD programmes, warning that tech leadership cannot be built without vibrant research activity

### 'Hornbill Dream' blends technology, tradition

The final evening featured a massive cultural showcase called "Hornbill Dream – Where Tradition Meets Technology," presented by Nagaland's Task Force of Music and Arts. It blended Naga heritage with digital innovation

A robotic dog draws crowds at a pavilion during the India AI Impact Summit 2026 at Bharat Mandapam

### Magenta AI targets ethical innovation

Indian-American AI researcher and digital strategist Rawneet (Ravi) Singh launched Magenta AI at the Summit, marking a new entrant into India's fast-expanding AI ecosystem. Based in Miami, Singh returned for the launch, positioning Magenta AI at the intersection of technology, governance & ethical innovation

## BUILDING BLOCKS OF AI

Visitors explore a pavilion at the India AI Impact Summit 2026 at New Delhi's Bharat Mandapam on Friday

# India's talent deep enough to rival challengers: Gor

▶Continued from P 1

"Together, the two aspire to build an AI future that serves their citizens, strengthens their economies and societies, and reflects their shared values of freedom, openness, and the rule of law," the statement said.

Gor's remarks were more revealing as he said Pax Silica was a coalition of capabilities that replaced coercive dependencies with a positive sum alliance of trusted industrial bases. "India's entry into Pax Silica isn't just symbolic, it's strategic, it's essential. India is a nation with deep talent, deep enough to rival challengers," said Gor, who invited India to join the initiative that now has 11 members, on his first day in office last month.

For India, Pax Silica is another significant step forward towards the normalisation of the relationship with the US after both sides finalised the framework for an interim trade agreement this month.

According to Gor, India brings strength to the coalition as its engineering depth and critical mineral processing capacity offered critical capabilities to the partnership. "Peace doesn't come from hoping adversaries will play fair. We all know they won't. Peace comes through strength. India understands this. India understands strong borders. India understands this part of the world. That strength, that sovereignty, is exactly what Pax Silica amplifies," said the US ambassador, adding discussions with India were on about building supply chains that would not be held hostage.

Visitors at the AI summit Friday

The Pax Silica Declaration seeks efforts to reduce excessive dependencies and forge new connections with reliable partners and suppliers committed to fair market practices, while acknowledging the importance of addressing non-market practices that undermine innovation and fair competition.

Welcoming India to "co-found" the future, Gor also said the initiative was about whether innovation happens in Bengaluru and Silicon Valley or in surveillance states that use technology to monitor and control their people. "We choose freedom. We choose partnership. We choose strength. And today, with India's entry into Pax Silica, we choose to win," said Gor.

The joint statement prioritised economic security, pro-innovation regulation, stronger physical AI stack and free enterprise saying that the two sides shared the belief that a significant risk facing the free world was not advancement of AI, but the failure to lead it.

Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw stressed that cooperation under Pax Silica would further deepen engagement on critical technologies and supply chain resilience under the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership.

"Technology cooperation remains one of the central pillars of the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership. India's joining the Pax Silica initiative marks a significant step forward in deepening bilateral collaboration in critical and emerging technologies and reinforces shared commitment of both countries to resilient, trusted, and future-ready supply chains," MEA said.

# AI race is democratic vs autocratic, says OpenAI

Supriya Roy & Sidhartha | TNN

**New Delhi:** The future of AI will be shaped by a contest between "democratic AI" and "autocratic AI," OpenAI's chief global affairs officer **Chris Lehane** said on Friday, arguing that how countries govern the technology will determine whether it empowers individuals or entrenches state control.

Lehane told **TOI** the divide is visible in the growing strategic competition between the US and China, and that large democracies, particularly India, will play a decisive role. He described "democratic AI" as systems that are "open, transparent, follow the rule of law" and function as "a tool for an individual to scale their capabilities, to learn, think, build, create, produce." In contrast, AI developed in "autocratic systems" is "designed to enhance the central authority, the authoritarian govt," rather than empower individuals.

Governance, he suggested, is central to the race. Citing Russian President Vladimir Putin's remark that whoever leads in AI will "win the world," Lehane argued that the values embedded in AI systems will shape the global order that emerges.

On oversight, he said new rules are inevitable for a general purpose technology. AI safety institutes are emerging in the US and the UK, with India exploring a similar approach.

Asked whether OpenAI would support audits of its advanced systems, Lehane said the company is subject to transparency requirements under safety frameworks in US states such as California and New York and works with safety institutes in the US and UK.

He drew a distinction between transparency and disclosure of proprietary information, noting concerns about protecting intellectual property. Baseline safety standards can be developed collectively, he said, but countries should retain the ability to deploy AI consistent with societal contexts. For India, the stakes are high.

# India has emerged as 'shining beacon' of Global South: Report

Manash.Gohain
@timesofindia.com

**New Delhi:** India has emerged as a "shining beacon" among Global South nations on AI, but the real challenge now is moving beyond pilots to large-scale, trusted deployment, according to the 'Playbook for National AI Strategy and Implementation' released by Boston Consulting Group (BCG) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Based on work across India, Egypt, Indonesia, Bangladesh and the Philippines, the report argues there is no single lever to accelerate AI adoption. Countries instead need a tightly coordinated ecosystem spanning computing, funding, skills, governance and institutional accountability.

Saibal Chakraborty, who leads BCG India's tech and digital advantage practice, said India already has a structural edge. "India has solved a large part of the hard infrastructure and digital public infrastructure problem. Aadhaar, UPI and data centres make it much easier to build AI applications at scale," he said. The playbook cites the IndiaAI Mission's facilitation of over 38,000 GPUs, made available at under Rs 60 per hour after centralised govt negotiations with vendors.

However, the report flags a financing gap. While India has more than 120 unicorns, private capital largely avoids "socially sensitive sectors like climate, education and rural solutions". To address this, the playbook backs govt-led fund-of-funds models for public interest AI use cases.

On skills, Chakraborty said scaling artificial intelligence requires senior leadership trust and oversight. Without CEO-level confidence, AI risks remaining stuck in "cool pilots" despite strong national ambition.

# Countries sought India's help to develop AI: MEA

**New Delhi:** Calling the India AI Impact Summit 2026 a "grand success", ministry of external affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal on Friday said the global summit saw participation from world leaders and delegations across continents, with strong appreciation for India's vision of making AI democratic and inclusive.

Jaiswal said the summit saw participation from leaders and delegations across continents, reinforcing India's growing role as a key player in the global AI landscape. "We had 20 world leaders at the summit. In addition, we had 45 delegations represented at the ministerial level from across the world. We also had a hundred countries represented at this summit." He said while there was a strong focus on the Global South, the summit was "truly global in nature". On participation from Europe, he said, "We had 30 delegations from Europe represented at the official level."

MEA said PM Modi held bilateral meetings with 36 world leaders during the summit and interacted with several other countries on the sidelines.

# Despite differences, summit has set stage for cooperation: Indian officials

▶Continued from P1

Countries had failed to reach a consensus at the last summit in Paris but there appears to be greater synergy on several issues, among govts and companies.

Substantive disagreements also surfaced on global governance. While the UN announced formation of an independent scientific panel on AI, the US delegation warned against centralised global control of generative AI, underlining the difficulty of forging binding global rules.

Despite differing views, Indian officials said the summit had laid the groundwork for collaboration rather than confrontation. "This is about real action, not just paper," Vaishnaw said, pointing to bilateral discussions, industry commitments and plans for an expanded AI Mission 2.0.

**Ashwini Vaishnaw** said the scale and diversity of participation underlined global confidence in India's approach. "World has confidence in India's role in the new AI age. That is very important for all of us," he said.

According to the minister, over five lakh visitors have attended the summit and the expo, with "practically every major AI player in the world" participating.

A key highlight, Vaishnaw said, was the acceptance of PM Modi's vision of "ManavAI" — AI of the humans, by the humans, for the humans — which places responsible and ethical use of AI at the centre. "For the first time, discussion on ethical and responsible AI has been brought to the forefront in such a meaningful way," he said.

Investment commitments also featured prominently. Vaishnaw said infrastructure-related pledges linked to AI, data centres and allied technologies had already crossed $250 billion, while around $20 billion in deep-tech venture investments had been completed. "Numbers are important, but what is more important is the trust the world has shown in India," he said.

# 'India is a natural collaborator in building inclusive & trusted AI'

*In an exclusive interview to* TOI's **Sachin Parashar**, *Sri Lankan President* **Anura Kumara Dissanayake** *speaks about the significance of the AI Summit, backs India's legitimate security interests in Indian Ocean and says Lanka would like to resume ETCA talks in a progressive and transparent manner. Excerpts:*

TOI INTERVIEW

**You are visiting India at PM Modi's invitation for the summit. You've spoken in the past about gap between States in AI and how some nations are unable to use AI for development because of inadequate infrastructure. In that context, what are your expectations from this summit and the outcome document?**

■ We congratulate India for bringing this important AI Impact Summit to the Global South. This summit is significant not only for technology, but for partnership. For Lanka, this summit must be about democratising access to AI infrastructure and turning global principles into practical partnerships for the Global South. Sri Lanka sees this as an opportunity for India and Lanka, and wider Global South to shape AI governance together in partnership. For developing countries like mine, access to infra, research networks and human capital development is critical.

Sri Lanka is already putting in place the foundations for AI-driven development — including a national digital public infrastructure framework, an AI governance architecture, sectoral AI committees, and an AI Champions programme to build institutional capability. But for countries like ours, access to global compute ecosystems, research networks and advanced talent development remains critical. Initiatives such as the Global AI Impact Commons and the Trusted AI Commons are important because they can help democratise AI resources and ensure that innovation is not limited to a few advanced economies. The summit's real impact will lie in turning principles into practical partnerships, and Sri Lanka stands ready to work with India in doing so.

**What do you make of India's focus on inclusive and human-centric AI and the fact that the summit is being hosted for the first time in the Global South? What's your position on AI regulation?**

■ India's human-centric approach to AI aligns closely with Sri Lanka's own reform and development priorities. Sri Lanka supports a balanced and risk-based regulatory framework that protects citizens while encouraging innovation. Sri Lanka has already enacted robust data protection legislation, strengthened its cybersecurity framework, and is establishing a structured AI governance architecture to guide responsible adoption. Rather than fragmented standards, regional collaboration between Sri Lanka and India can promote interoperability, ethical safeguards and shared learning. AI governance should enable growth, strengthen institutions and expand opportunities. That is best achieved through partnership. We see India as a natural collaborator in building trusted and inclusive AI ecosystems.

**Looking back, given the historical scepticism that your party had about India and Indian govt's recent support for Lanka's economic recovery, as also assistance after Cyclone Ditwah, how has your vision for India-Lanka ties evolved over past 18 months?**

■ The first country that I visited after being elected as President was India; and the first foreign leader that I received in Lanka as President was PM Modi. In recognition of India's support to Sri Lanka under PM Modi's leadership, including during the economic crisis, we accorded him the highest honour that Sri Lanka bestows upon foreign leaders — the Sri Lanka Mithra Vibhushana. The link between our countries and our peoples is deep, historic, and civilisational. When I visited India as President in Dec 2024, we adopted the India – Sri Lanka Joint Statement titled 'Fostering Partnerships for a Shared Future'. Relations between our two nations cover every area of contemporary relevance for our people.

> We sees this (summit) as an opportunity for India and Sri Lanka, and the wider Global South to shape AI governance together in partnership. For developing countries like mine, access to infrastructure, research networks and human capital development is critical

India's support during Lanka's economic stabilisation was significant. So was India's support during Cyclone Ditwah. Our relationship today is about structural integration and long-term growth. India is Sri Lanka's largest trading partner. India is a significant investor; and is the largest source of tourism. Just a few days ago, we welcomed a large number of Indians who came to Lanka to watch the T20 WC match between India and Pakistan. We are exploring expanding cooperation in energy connectivity and renewables; digital systems and public infra; maritime security and Indian Ocean stability and security; ports, logistics and supply chains; skills and human capital development and a range of other areas. We are open to considering all possible cooperation. A stronger Lankan economy complements India's growth trajectory. When Sri Lanka and India work together, it will strengthen regional stability and economic resilience across the IOR.

**Your govt seems to be doing a tough balancing act, as it looks to secure Chinese investments while not jeopardising India's security. As Sri Lanka looks to finalise the SOP for foreign research vessels this year, will it take into account India's concern that vessels with dual-use military capabilities are not allowed to dock in Sri Lanka?**

■ Sri Lanka maintains an independent foreign policy. At the same time, geography dictates responsibility. We recognise India's legitimate security interests in the Indian Ocean region. Our security is intertwined. We have signed an Agreement on Defence Cooperation between the two countries. Sri Lanka will not allow its territory to be used in ways that undermine other countries' security. Stability in the Indian Ocean Region is a shared responsibility, and Sri Lanka will always work closely with India to uphold it.

**Negotiations for the Economic and Technological Cooperation Agreement (ETCA) remain stalled. You have stressed economic freedom but given the growing economic ties, do you think it might be time now to conclude the agreement?**

■ Sri Lanka believes the time is right to re-energise economic engagement with India. Global trade dynamics are shifting. India is expanding its trade architecture. Sri Lanka will explore ways to integrate into this growth environment in a mutually beneficial manner. We would like to recommence discussions on ETCA in a transparent manner. We are expanding free trade zone capacity and welcome Indian investment. Beyond trade agreements, Sri Lanka and India port partnerships offer tremendous opportunities. Sri Lanka's ports already serve as major transhipment hubs for Indian cargo.

By deepening cooperation, we can position Sri Lanka as a logistics and value-add partner to Indian manufacturing, develop JVs in maritime services, strengthen industrial connectivity and integrate more closely into regional supply chains. Economic integration should create jobs in Sri Lanka and build resilience for both economies. The direction in which we seek to proceed is clear: deeper cooperation with India, structured integration and shared growth for mutual benefit.

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## RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LIMITED

**E- NOTICE INVITING SHORT TERM BID NO. 21 (2025-26)**

On line bids for E-NIB Short term NO.21 (2025-26) are here from interested bidders for S.No. 01 in office of the Executive Engineer (Civil) R.R.V.P.N.L. Hanumangarh. The details of NIB i.e. estimated cost, tender fee, earnest money date of tender download and submitting etc. given in procurement portal http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.nic.in & www.rvpn.co.in

VPN2526WSOB00879

Raj.Samvad/C/25/10806   RRVPN/TS.7365/2026   Superintending Engineer (Civil) Bikaner

## KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD

(DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, GOVT. OF KERALA)
Head Office : Thycaud, Thiruvananthapuram-14,
(Telephone No. 0471-2337383, FAX No. 0471-2945447),
E-mail : edrugs.kmscl@kerala.gov.in,
website : www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in, CIN No. U24233KL2007SGC021616

No.KMSCL/ED/22/2025   Date: 18.02.2026

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

Online bids are invited for the procurement of Anti Haemophilia Drugs vide e-tender no KMSCL/ED/HEAM/RC/2026/002 dtd. 18.02.2026 for Department of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of Kerala.

| Sl. No. | Name of Item | Last Date & time of Uploading of tender | Date & time of Technical bid opening |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Recombinant Anti Haemophilic factor VIII (SHL & EHL) 500 IU | 04.03.2026 5.00 pm. | 06.03.2026 11.00 am. |

Tender documents can be downloaded from the website www.etenders.kerala.gov.in.

(Sd/-) MANAGING DIRECTOR (Tender Inviting Authority)

## OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE, WIRELESS

No.1, M. G. Road, Bengaluru - 560001
Phone: +91-80-22864626, E-mail: spwireless@ksp.gov.in

NO: 06/MDN/STS/W/DIGITALVHF RPTR&WT/2025-26   Date: 20/02/2026

**TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through K.P.P Portal Only)**

1. **Tender No: KSP/2025-26/IND0566/Call-3, Date: 20/02/2026**
   **Name of Work:-** Superintendent of Police Wireless, Bengaluru invited Re-tender(Call-3) for **Supply of SIM cards with 4G/5G Internet connectivity for MDTS installed in Highway/Garuda/PCR Patrol Vehicles of ERSS-112** through e-procurement portal. Annual estimated bid value: Rs. 6.76 Lakhs. Pre-bid meeting on **23/02/2026 at 12.30 am.** The Last date and time for tender submission **27/02/2026 at 5 pm.**
2. **Tender No: KSP/2025-26/IND0443/Call-3, Dated: 19/02/2026**
   **Name of Work:-** Superintendent of Police, Wireless, Bengaluru has invited a tender for **Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Digital VHF Repeaters and Digital VHF Walkie-Talkies for different units of Karnataka State** Police through e-procurement portal. Estimated Bid value: Rs.89.60 Lakhs. Pre-bid Queries on **24/02/2026 at 17.00 Hrs.** The Last date and time for tender submission is **27/02/2026 upto 17.00 Hrs.**
3. **Tender No: KSP/2025-26/IND0444/Call-3, Dated: 19/02/2026**
   **Name of Work:-** Superintendent of Police, Wireless, Bengaluru has invited a tender for **Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Digital VHF/UHF Repeaters for different units of Karnataka State Police** through e-procurement portal. Estimated Bid value: Rs.27.00 Lakhs. Pre-bid Queries on **24/02/2026 at 17.00 Hrs.** The Last date and time for tender submission is **27/02/2026 upto 17.00 Hrs.**
4. **Tender No: KSP/2025-26/IND0565, Dated: 18/02/2026**
   **Name of Work:-** Additional Director General of Police, Communication, Logistics & Modernization, Bengaluru has invited a tender for **Supply and Maintenance of Design, Supply, Commissioning And Maintenance MCS Compliant LTE, LTE+VHF/UHF DMR Hybrid Handheld Radios & Associated Systems for State Intelligence Unit** through e-procurement portal. Estimated Bid value Rs.870.00 Lakhs. Pre-bid meeting on **04/03/2026 at 11.30 Hrs.** The Last date and time for tender submission is **20/03/2026, at 17.00 Hrs.**

**Further details can be obtained by visiting e-procurement portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in For more information, please contact the above office.**

**Sd/- Superintendent of Police, Wireless, Bengaluru.**

DIPR/CP/5746/5760/2025-26

## BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer, Govindarajanagara Division, Zone-2, 2nd Floor, Shakthi Soudha, 13th Cross Road, 4th 'B' Main Road, M.C. Layout, Vijayanagara, Bengaluru - 560040.

No: BWCC/EE(GRN)/TN/GL/04/2025-26   Date: 20-02-2026

**SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION**
**(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)**

Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the Executive Engineer, Govindarajanagara Division, Zone-2, BWCC, Bengaluru from the registered Contractors of BWCC or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES or any State Government Organizations for the works detailed below.

| Sl. No. | Name of the Work |
|---|---|
| | **Two Cover Works** |
| 1 | Additional Works to Community Hall in Ward No. 141, Nagarabhavi and Other Development Works to Ward No. 139, Mudalapalya in Govindaraja Nagara Constituency. **Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 234.12, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 3,52,000/-** |
| 2 | Improvements of Park and Playground in Ward No. 139, Moodalapalya and Development of Parks in Govindaraja Nagara Constituency. **Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 253.30, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 3,80,000/-** |

**Calendar of Events:** 1) The tender documents can be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in 2)** Last Date for Uploading the Filled Proposals is **27-02-2026 upto 16.00 Hours. 3)** Date of Opening of Technical Proposals is **02-03-2026 after 11.30 Hours. 4)** Date of Opening of Financial Proposals: **After approval of Technical Proposals through KPP Portal.** Further details can be had from the above office.

**Sd/- Executive Engineer**
**Govindarajanagara Division, Zone-2, BWCC.**

## Government of Karnataka
## Public Works Department

**Office of the Executive Engineer,**
**Mysuru Division, Mysuru.**
**E-mail: eepwdmys21@gmail.com**
**Phone No. & Fax No. 0821-2420610**

**IFT No. 34/2025-26   Dt.16.02.2026**

**ITEM WISE TENDER NOTIFICATION**

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, Executive Engineer, Public Works Department has published Item wise Tender notification for the **work of Construction of Govt ITI College at Tagadur village in Nanjangud Taluk, in Varuna constituency, Mysuru district** under this division with KW-4 Conditions & Regulations with Two cover systems, which has been approved under the head of account 8443-Deposit contribution for the year 2025-26. The **Amount Put to Tender is Rs.555.69 Lakhs and EMD amount is Rs.8.34 Lakhs.** Tenders shall be Submitted in KPP-Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from 17.02.2026 to 20.03.2026, within 17.00 PM and Period of completion of work is 11 months (including Monsoon).** KPWD Class-I Contractor Registered in KPP-Portal are eligible. More details can be obtained from the office of the under Signed during office hours. Any amendments or modifications in tender notification will be published in KPP-Portal Only.

**Sd/- Executive Engineer, Public Works Department., Mysuru Division, Mysuru**

DPR/EE/MYS/1751/KSNC/A/964/2025-26

## AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE MARKET COMMITTEE, GOKAK

No : APMC/GOKAK/DEV/NOTIFICATION/540/2025-26   Date : 16/02/2026

**E- TENDER NOTIFICATION 3ND CALL**

Tender invited from the registred eligible contractors through KPPP Portal for the following work taken of during 2025-26 at main market yard of APMC Gokak.

Name of work: Construction of compound wall water troughs at cattle market RT road & Admin block renovation etc at Main market yard of Gokak APMC/ 1) APMC/2025-26/OW/ WORK_INDENT650 2) Tender From & Reservation Details : Item Wise E-Tender General Category KW-2 3) Amount Put to Tender (Exclusive of GST) : Rs 1,11,72,219.31 4) EMD Amount : Rs.2,00,000/-.

EMD Amount & tender conditions are available in KPPP Portal More information available at APMC Gokak office during Working hours and https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in website.

**Sd/- (Secretary   Sd/- Administrator**
**Agricultural Produce Market Committee, GOKAK**

## PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

(Regd Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identification Number (CIN) : U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website : www.pspcl.in (Contact Number 9646123303)

**Tender Inquiry No. PPR-08/2026   Dated : 18.02.2026**

Chief Engineer/PP&R Organization, Shed No. D-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender under three part bid system for supply of electrical energy (RE-Non Solar) from interstate/ intrastate sources viz. Generators, Traders having Valid Inter State Trading License issued by CERC for interstate trading of energy, intrastate trading license issued by PSERC for intrastate trading of energy, State Electricity Boards, State Electricity Utilities, States, IPPs & CPPs from 5[th] March 2026 to 31[st] March 2026. The link for the e-Bidding portal is www.mstcecommerce.com and is also available on the website of Ministry of Power (www.Powermin.nic.in) and PFC Consultancy Limited (www.pfcindia.com). For detailed NIT & tender specifications please refer to **www.mstcecommerce.com** from 18.02.2026 onwards.

Note :- Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at **www.mstcecommerce.com**

C-86526, DPR/Pb.-1079/12/2025-26/6696

## MYSORE PALACE BOARD

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Office of the Executive Officer, Mysore Palace Board, Mysore
Phone: 0821-2421051, e-mail- ddmysorepalace@gmail.com

Tender No. EO/MPB/DD/Civil/tender-07/2025-26   Date : 18.02.2026

**NOTIFICATION**

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, Deputy Director, Mysore Palace Board, Mysuru invites the Tender for **"Providing Security Guards to Mysore Palace on out source basis"** for an amount of **Rs. 92.00 Lakhs** and "Providing Manpower Services to Mysore Palace on out source basis for an amount of **Rs 260.00 Lakhs** from Eligible Vendors /Bidders /Agencies/Firms who have executed similar type of works in Highly sensitive areas under central/State Government as per Tender Document in Two Cover System. a) Last date and time for receipt of tenders for Sl. No. 01 work through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only **02.03.2026 up to 16.00 hrs** and Last date and time for receipt of tenders for Sl. No. 02 work through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only: **17.03.2026 up to 16:00 hrs, b)** Time and date of opening of Technical Bid of Sl. No. 01 Work: **03.03.2026 after 16:30 hrs** and Time and date of opening of Technical Bid of Sl. No 02 Work: **18.03.2026 after 16:30 hrs**

Details regarding the work and tender document may be obtained through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. Any clarification regarding details of the work, or any other aspects of the above tender can be had by contacting the office of the Deputy Director, Mysore Palace Board, Mysuru during the office hours.

**Sd/- Deputy Director,**
**Mysore Palace Board,**
**Mysuru**

DIPR/MYSORE/SHIRDI SAI/1710/2025-26

## KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD

**( A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)**
**#2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru - 560009.**
**Phone No. 080-22265383. website : www.kiadb.in**

**No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-28/1717/2025-26   Date:20.02.2026**

**SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER**
**(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)**

Tender under Two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following work as per the schedule given below:

**Name of the work :** Formation of Industrial Layout including Formation of 15M wide Roads including asphalting, Construction of RCC Side Drains, RCC Cross Drainage works & HDPE Water Supply Pipeline etc., at Kadechuru Industrial Area, 2nd Phase Sub Layout, Yadagiri Taluk, Yadagiri District.

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **09.03.2026 upto 04:00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

**Sd/-**
**Chief Engineer - 2**

DIPR/CP/JA/5779/2025-26

## Directorate of Technical Education & Training, Odisha

14001/9/2026

At-Killamaidan, PO-Buxibazar, Cuttack-753001
Phone No-0671 2301061, e-mail: dtetorissa@gmail.com

NIT No. DTET/2025-26/2575   Date: 19/02/2026

**NOTICE INVITING REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) FOR**
**Upgradation of Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) in Odisha under Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation Through Upgraded ITIs (PM SETU)**

DTE&T Odisha under the administrative control of Skill Development & Technical Education Department, Government of Odisha (the Client) invites sealed proposals from industry partners for "Upgradation of Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) in Odisha under Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation Through Upgraded ITIs (PM- SETU)" through Odisha Government e-Procurement System (**https://tendersodisha.gov.in**). Bidders fulfilling the prescribed eligibility criteria of the RFP can access and download the complete RFP Document and other details from **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**, and **www.dtet.odisha.gov.in**. Please refer to the RFP documents for details. The proposals complete in all respect must be submitted through e-tender process latest by 30.03.2026 (before 5:00 PM).

The RFP documents shall be available from 21/02/2026 onwards in the Odisha Government e-Procurement Portal (**https://tendersodisha.gov.in.**) & DTE&T Odisha website (**www.dtet.odisha.gov.in/en/tenders**). If required, further intimation (i.e. Corrigendum/ Addendum / Responses to the queries/Clarifications etc.), shall be uploaded in the above websites only. DTE&T Odisha reserves all the rights to reject any/all proposals at any stage without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-
**DTE&T, Odisha, Cuttack**
OIPR-14001/14004/133-26/0001

## Government of India
## Ministry of Corporate Affairs

**Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit (C-PACE)**
**IICA Building, 7th Floor,**
**Plot P-6,7,8, Sector-5, IMT Manesar,**
**Gurgaon, Haryana - 122050.**
**Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in**

भारत सरकार
कारपोरेट कार्य मंत्रालय
त्वरित कॉर्पोरेट बहिर्गमन प्रसंस्करण केंद्र (सी-पेस),
आई.आई.सी.ए. बिल्डिंग, 7वी मंज़िल,
प्लाट P-6,7,8, से.-5, आई.एम.टी. मानेसर, गुड़गांव,
हरियाणा - 122050.
Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in

## FORM No. STK --6
## PUBLIC NOTICE

*[Pursuant to sub-section (2) and sub-section (4) of section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 7 of the Companies (Removal of Names of Companies from the Register of Companies) Rules, 2016]*

Public Notice:ROC/C-PACE/STK-2/248(2)/2025-26/1983   Date: 14/02/2026

### Reference:

In the matter of striking off or removal of names of (51) companies in the state of Karnataka under section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 in respect of:

| S.No. | Work Item | CIN | Company Name |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | AC1385453 | U17209KA2025PTC206356 | NAVISETU MANUFACTURING BUSINESSES PRIVATE LIMITED |
| 2 | AC1487400 | U63090KA2024PTC185566 | DIFFUSER INTERFACES PRIVATE LIMITED |
| 3 | AC1669437 | U72900KA2023OPC16071 8 | SIMHULATE TECHNOLOGIES (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED |
| 4 | AC1731055 | U18101KA2000PTC026476 | RAMSONS UDHYOG PRIVATE LIMITED |
| 5 | AC2220534 | U72900KA2021PTC144801 | FIRSTMOCH TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED |
| 6 | AC2256008 | U62013KA2024PTC186256 | ANTHRON SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED |
| 7 | AC2248813 | U80902KA2015PTC078151 | DIKSOOCHI ACADEMY OF ADVANCED EDUCATION PRIVATE LIMITED |
| 8 | AC1351635 | U27100KA2009PTC051477 | INDESET STEEL PRIVATE LIMITED |
| 9 | AC1284858 | U93112KA2016PTC086492 | PERFECIENT SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED |
| 10 | AC1549649 | U62011KA2024PTC190971 | SAMBA TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED |
| 11 | AC2383464 | U78300KA2024PTC188801 | BOLTHIRE SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED |
| 12 | AC1475323 | U86100KA2023PTC161400 | SANKALPA HOSPITALS PRIVATE LIMITED |
| 13 | AC1589482 | U94100KA2021PTC145567 | SEVENTRIC SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED |
| 14 | AC1522966 | U01100KA2021PTC149298 | WHOLESOME GRAINS ORGANICS PRIVATE LIMITED |
| 15 | AC1575770 | U72200KA2014PTC073351 | FIRDIT SOFTWARE PRIVATE LIMITED |
| 16 | AC1574479 | U15400KA2013PTC080021 | HAMNI FOOD PRODUCTS PRIVATE LIMITED |
| 17 | AC1687574 | U65200KA2024PTC188333 | GIRISHVANAT PRIVATE LIMITED |
| 18 | AC1615520 | U62099KA2023PTC171787 | NETTQUANTUM ANALYTICS PRIVATE LIMITED |
| 19 | AC1809179 | U15121KA2025PTC207368 | CLOUD STITCHES PRIVATE LIMITED |
| 20 | AC1849857 | U23101KA2024PTC184800 | MEDISANITAS LIFE SCIENCES PRIVATE LIMITED |
| 21 | AC1167858 | U01100KA2020PTC140676 | KODACHADRI AGRICULTURE PRODUCER COMPANY LIMITED |
| 22 | AC1886528 | U62099KA2024PTC186592 | INDISPORTS TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED |
| 23 | AC1941958 | U68200KA2024PTC186902 | WORK BOULEVARD PRIVATE LIMITED |
| 24 | AC2082008 | U66309KA2024PTC186729 | NORTHPOINT CAPITAL MANAGEMENT PRIVATE LIMITED |
| 25 | AC2091381 | U93090KA2018PTC109813 | ACMIEL BUSINESS SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED |
| 26 | AC2093292 | U74999KA2017PTC107501 | BCORP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED |
| 27 | AC2088599 | U72900KA2022PTC160730 | WITLOGIX TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED |
| 28 | AC2111899 | U74999KA2017PTC106240 | KENOME TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED |
| 29 | AC2119093 | U15130KA2022PTC169158 | MADURAI FNB INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED |
| 30 | AC2141811 | U47190KA2023PTC176934 | KQP SIGMA PRIVATE LIMITED |
| 31 | AC2148361 | U74999KA2021PTC145070 | HI LOCUM PRIVATE LIMITED |
| 32 | AC2206320 | U46419KA2023OPC17871 2 | DHAAGE TEXTILES (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED |
| 33 | AC2145497 | U68200KA2024PTC181403 | PATIO LATENT PROPERTIES PRIVATE LIMITED |
| 34 | AC2147748 | U47912KA2024PTC185207 | VERDIVA TECHNICA PRIVATE LIMITED |
| 35 | AC2162878 | U72900KA2015PTC120355 | PRAGMATHOUGHT TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED |
| 36 | AC2167301 | U63040KA2009PTC050851 | AMY TRAVEL INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED |
| 37 | AC2221578 | U72900KA2023PTC164363 | MY CHAT LESSON PRIVATE LIMITED |
| 38 | AC2177972 | U27109KA1995PTC087053 | APARNA ALLOYS PRIVATE LIMITED |
| 39 | AC2178252 | U72900KA2015PTC083693 | AAGNAA SOFTWARE LABS PRIVATE LIMITED |
| 40 | AC2178771 | U56102KA2024PTC190632 | VANASRI CONSUMER FOODS AND SNACKS PRIVATE LIMITED |
| 41 | AC2195507 | U86203KA2025PTC197157 | INNOVETIX GLOBAL PRIVATE LIMITED |
| 42 | AC2212416 | U72900KA2016PTC096641 | LOOJSLORE TECHNOLOGY PRIVATE LIMITED |
| 43 | AC3085013 | U62099KA2021PTC155708 | ADISAMRD TECHNOLOGY PRIVATE LIMITED |
| 44 | AC2187361 | U72200KA2022OPC16058 6 | GREEN CLICK (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED |
| 45 | AC1574699 | U34202KA2004PTC034644 | VANN TRAILER WORKS PRIVATE LIMITED |
| 46 | AC0982550 | U73200KA2012PTC062111 | WELLTH SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED |
| 47 | AC2221955 | U45309KA2021PTC148634 | WEWILD HULIBAAN PRIVATE LIMITED |
| 48 | AC1265994 | U72900KA2020PTC109815 | UPNORTH TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED |
| 49 | AC1345200 | U31400KA2013PTC061353 | PNC LIGHTING SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED |
| 50 | AC1425823 | U74900KA2014PTC074808 | SURWORLD GLOBAL VENTURES PRIVATE LIMITED |
| 51 | AC1689396 | U72100KA2024PTC181557 | ORISTONS INNOVATIONS PRIVATE LIMITED |

2. Notice is hereby given that the Registrar of Companies had received applications from the above-mentioned companies under section 248(2) of the Companies Act, 2013 for removal of its/their name (s) from the register of companies either on the ground that they have failed to commence business within one year of their incorporation or on the ground that the company(ies) is/are not carrying on any business or operation for a period of two immediately preceding financial years and has/have not made any application (s) within such period for obtaining the status of a dormant company under section 455 of the Companies Act, 2013 or the company(ies) have obtained the status of dormant company,/subscribers to the memorandum have not paid the subscription which they had undertaken to pay at the time of incorporation of a company and a declaration to this effect has not been filed within one hundred and eighty days of its incorporation under subsection (1) of section 10A/ have not been carrying on any business or operations, as revealed after the physical verification carried out under sub-section (9) of section 12, but it/they do not wish to continue its/their registration as companies and have, therefore, requested for removal/strike off of its/their names from the register of companies.

3. Accordingly, the Registrar of Companies proposes to remove or strike off the names of the above-mentioned companies from the Register of Companies.

4. Any person objecting to the proposed removal or striking off name of the companies from the register of companies may send his or her objection to the office address mentioned here above within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice.

Ramesh Agarwal
Deputy Registrar
Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit

CBC 07123/11/0715/2526

## Department of Collegiate and Technical Education

Government of Karnataka
NO. 1, Unnatha Shikshana Soudha, Sheshadri Road, Bengaluru – 560 001
Phone: 080-22223906, email: dce.tenders2017@gmail.com

**No.: DCE/ITS/PUR/18/2025 (Computer No.1936625)   Date: 20.02.2026**

**E-TENDER NOTIFICATION**

The Commissioner for Collegiate and Technical Education, Bangalore hereby invites bids in Two-Cover system through e-Procurement portal from eligible bidders for the following Tender. The Tender Documents with detailed terms and conditions may be obtained from the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

**Tender Schedules**

| Sl. No. | Tender Name & Number | Date of Floating Tender on e- Procurement Portal | Date and Time of pre-bid meeting | Last date and Time for bidding through eprocurement portal |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | **Tender No: DCE/2025-26/IND0075** "Supply, Installation and Maintenance of ICT Equipment for Department of Collegiate Education" | **20/02/2026** | **23/02/2026 11.00 AM** | **27/02/2026 5.30 PM** |

**Sd/-**
**Director of Collegiate Education, Bengaluru**

DIPR/CP/5782/NN/2025-26

## KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD

**(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)**
**No.2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar Bengaluru - 560 009. Phone No. 080-22265383, website: www.kiadb.in**

**No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-87/2056/2025-26   Date: 20.02.2026**

**SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER**
**(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)**

Item Rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following work as per the schedule given below:

**Name of the Work** : Extending 11kV express feeder from existing 66/11kV Kandli substation to Thimmanahalli Industrial Area and providing 250KVA transformer centers to Thimmanahalli Industrial Area, Hassan Taluk & District.

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **07.03.2026** upto **4.00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

**Sd/-**
**Chief Engineer-1,**
**KIADB Bengaluru**

DIPR/CP/5792/Zen/2025-26

## REVENUE DEPARTMENT
## OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY, IMA & OTHER KPIDFE SCAM CASES

3rd & 4th Floor, Podium Block, V.V Tower, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001
e-mail: splocaima21@gmail.com Phone No.080-29565353/29566556

**No. SPLOCA/ADM/PROC-03/20/2025-26   Date: 18-02-2026**

**Tender Notice**

The SPECIAL OFFICER & COMPETENT AUTHORITY IMA & OTHER KPIDFE SCAM CASES hereby invites tenders under e-tendering system for AMC of Desktops, Printers & Digital Projectors and consumables for 12 months, as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000, Two Cover System.

**Schedule of Events:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Commencement of download of e-Tender document from website- **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/** | **23/02/2026** |
| Last Date of Queries on or before | **27/02/2026 till 5:00 p.m.** |
| Pre-Bid Meeting on | **02/03/2026 at 11.00 a.m** |
| Last Date for Uploading of Tender in e-procurement platform on or before | **04/03/2026 till 5:00 p.m.** |
| Opening of Technical Bid | **05/03/2026 at 12:00 p.m.** |
| Date of Original Document Verification | Will be done on the uploaded documents at e-portal on **06/03/2026** |
| Opening of Financial Bid | **07/03/2026 at 11:00 am** |
| Approximate value of tender | **Rs. 10.00 Lakhs** |

**For any query contact:** O/o SPLOCA, IMA & OTHER KPIDFE SCAM CASES, 3rd floor, podium block, V.V Towers, Bengaluru - 560001. e-mail: splocaima21@gmail.com. Contact: 080-29566556. Details regarding Tender terms and conditions are available at e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home.**

**Sd/-**
**Special Officer & Competent Authority,**
**(IMA & Other KPIDFE Cases) Revenue Department**
**Bangalore**

DIPR/CP/5769/NR/2025-26

# Saudi crude imports trim gap with Russia

## Hit Highest Level In Feb Since Nov 2019

**Atul.Mathur**@timesofindia.com

**New Delhi:** Crude oil imports from Saudi Arabia have hit their highest levels since Nov 2019, clocking nearly 1-1.1 million barrels per day (bpd) in Feb, and overtaking Russia temporarily to emerge as the biggest supplier to India.

According to data shared by Kpler, a global data and analytics service provider, crude imports from the West Asian country peaked at 1.3 million barrels on Feb 20 (Friday), eclipsing Russian supplies of about 1.1 mbd. Saudi Arabia has consistently held the third or fourth position in India's crude import basket over the past couple of years, with Russia remaining on top and Iraq and the UAE occupying the other two spots.

**The import nos. come amid mounting pressure from the US to reduce Russian crude purchases. An analyst said Russian imports are expected to dip in April as Nayara's refinery is scheduled for maintenance**

The recent surge has significantly narrowed the gap between Riyadh and Moscow that widened after India ramped up Russian oil purchases following the Ukraine invasion. The numbers come amid mounting pressure from the US to reduce Russian crude purchases.

"We expect some moderation in the coming weeks, with a few parcels likely slipping into early March. On a full-month basis, our predictive flows model currently indicates Saudi imports averaging closer to 1-1.1 mbd in Feb, still a multi-year high," said Sumit Ritolia, lead research analyst at Kpler. He said Russian crude imports are expected to be 1-1.2 mbd in Feb and may fall to 0.8-1 mbd a day in next month.

"However, we continue to see this as a short-term stabilisation... we expect Russia's share in India's crude slate to gradually stabilise at a lower range in 2026 compared to 2024 and 2025 as commercial and policy frictions build," he said. The analyst added Russian imports are expected to dip further in April as Nayara's Vadinar refinery, heavily dependent on Russian crude following EU sanctions, is scheduled for maintenance in April-May.

# Must comply with judicial officers' orders: SC

▸ Continued from page 1

"If SIR is not completed because of some unforeseen reasons, what will be the consequence, the state must realise," said the bench as it entrusted Calcutta high court chief justice to select serving judicial officers, and retired district judges and additional district judges to decide claims and objections related to voters categorised under 'logical discrepancy'.

SC said the orders passed by judicial officers, while adjudicating claims and documents during the SIR process, will be deemed to be orders passed by SC, and that superintendents of police (SPs) and collectors must immediately comply with those orders. "These directions are passed using the extraordinary powers of SC under Article 142 in the extraordinary circumstances that have arisen in the state," it said.

The hearing saw state govt and the poll panel sparring over non-completion of the revision exercise. After EC, through senior advocate D S Naidu, complained that the state govt is yet to depute the requisite number of Group A officers required to function as EROs and assistant EROs as per SC's Feb 9 order, a battery of senior advocates led by Kapil Sibal, AM Singhvi and Shyam Divan made a series of complaints against EC and the manner in which the process of scrutinising and deciding claims and documents were being carried out.

The bench initially frowned upon the state's failure to comply with its Feb 9 order to provide sufficient manpower to EC, but, recognising the protracted blame game, used its exclusive powers under Article 142 of the Constitution to direct deployment of state judicial officers and retired district judges and additional district judges of "impeccable track record" to decide claims applications and authenticity of accompanying documents supporting the claims.

Naidu informed the court that 96% of SIR work is complete and that EC should be permitted to publish the voter list — reflecting the completed 95% of assessment of the SIR process — on Feb 28. The rest of the list, after it is completed with the help of judicial officers, would be published when it is completed.

Sibal opposed, warning that this would lead to law-and-order situations in many places. But the bench agreed with Naidu and permitted EC to publish the final voter list in tranches, with the one containing a substantial majority of voters to be published on Feb 28.

Naidu complained that though SC had directed the West Bengal DGP and SPs to ensure smooth conduct of SIR by handling every untoward incident aimed at disrupting the revision of electoral roll process, the police have not acted on specific complaints lodged by EC.

The bench took serious note of this and asked the DGP to file a supplementary personal affidavit detailing the action taken on EC complaints as well as 28 other incidents to disrupt the SIR process and of giving provocative speeches against EC. "DGP will be in serious difficulty if we find non-compliance of our earlier orders," it said.

Telling the state to understand the consequences of non-completion of SIR within the timeframe, the bench said, "There is an unfortunate blame game, allegations and counter allegations, which clearly depicts the trust deficit between the democratically elected state govt and EC."

This led to the process getting stuck at the adjudication of claims and objections related to voters categorised under 'logical discrepancy', the bench said and added, "We are left with no option but to request the Calcutta HC chief justice to spare some serving judicial officers and nominate some former district judges and additional district judges of impeccable integrity who can in each district revisit and dispose of claims under the 'logical discrepancy' category".

To finalise modalities of deployment of judicial officers, SC asked the state election commissioner and one of his senior officials; chief secretary; DGP; advocate general; and additional solicitor general in Calcutta HC to meet the chief justice Saturday to break the stalemate and complete the SIR process.

For CM Mamata Banerjee, senior advocate Divan said since EROs are the only statutorily recognised officers who can decide claims, SC should reiterate its order that EROs will be the final authority for deciding claims. The bench outrightly rejected the plea and said, "We will not allow babus to sit over the decision of judicial officers and humiliate them."

The deputation of judicial officers, the bench said, may cause some disruption in the hearing of pending cases before them for a week or 10 days, and requested HC CJ to shift cases that require urgent interim orders to courts of other judicial officers. SC posted the matter for further hearing in the first week of March.

# Gujarat-origin man, woman in US face sex crime charges

**Ahmedabad:** Two unrelated cases in the US have brought two people of Gujarati origin into focus in separate sex crime investigations. In Arizona, a motel owner was sentenced after pleading guilty in a case linked to a prostitution and drug racket. In New Jersey, a 46-year-old man was arrested on sexual assault charges involving a 15-year-old.

The investigations are unrelated but have drawn attention due to the serious nature of the charges. Court proceedings are under way in both cases.

Varsha Patel (57), from Chino Hills in California, was sentenced on Feb 4 in Phoenix, Arizona. The court placed her on five years of probation and ordered the forfeiture of Royal Inn motel, along with $7,44,000 (around Rs 6.8 crore) in illegal proceeds and $5,000 (around Rs 4.5 lakh) in fine. Authorities said the Royal Inn operated as a base for prostitution and drug sales for several years.

In the New Jersey case, Tejas Patel of Woodbridge, was arrested Thursday and faces charges of second-degree sexual assault and third-degree endangering the welfare of a child. Investigators said he met the minor through a social media platform. TNN

# Shankar, Kolkata's chronicler and its window to the world, dies at 93

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Kolkata:** Acclaimed author **Mani Shankar Mukherjee**, better known as Shankar, the top-selling Bengali author since the 1960s, passed away in a hospital off EM Bypass in Kolkata Friday. He was 93 and is survived by his daughters Mausumi and Tanaya.

Shankar, known equally for his prolific output and the deep insight into the psyche of several generations of the Bengali *bhadralok* class, was also one of the foremost authors of his generation whose writings fuelled masterpieces on celluloid. Foremost among them were Satyajit Ray's "Seemabaddha" (which explored the intellectual vacuum behind the facade of corporate success) and "Jana Aranya" (a tale of self-discovery of urban youth struggling for a toehold in a harsh and shrinking job market).

His writing seemed effortless, but it concealed many struggles. The second of 11 brothers and sisters, Shankar and his siblings fell into penury after the death of their father in 1947. Eight years later, he penned his first book, "Kato Ajanare", in the light of a hurricane lamp. "The (rented) house had electricity but supply was severed when we were unable to pay the bill," he had recounted during an interaction in 2021. Seven years later, Shankar wrote "Chowringhee". The novel is recognised as a cult classic and has been translated into 18 languages, including French.

Shankar was one of the rare souls who found both critical acclaim as well as mass popularity. Honoured with the Sahitya Akademi Award, Shankar also had a deeply philosophical side that led him to write several biographies of Bengali saints like Swami Vivekananda and Sri Aurobindo. Even after great success, Shankar stayed humble. He often said his greatest challenge still lay ahead and that he would have to endure beyond his death, noting that the 10 best-selling Bengali authors were all deceased.

In his early years, Shankar had worked as a clerk to Noel Frederick Barwell, the last British barrister at Calcutta high court. After Barwell's death, he took up public relations as a profession. After a short stint at Philips, he joined Eastern Railway, followed by Dunlop, and finally the RPG Group where he worked for three-and-a-half decades.

"When I started he used to tutor me, scold me, to tell me what to wear and what not to wear. His demise is a personal loss," said industrialist and RPSG group chairman Sanjiv Goenka.

Shankar, in his personal life, lived up to the image of your friendly neighbourhood "galpa dadu (the story-telling grandad)". You could spend hours with him — at his south Kolkata residence or his central Kolkata office cabin — munching on the delicious fish fries he would order for you, even as you digested his tales (always true) and silvery wit. Bengal, without Shankar's stories, would have seen less of the world and would have been less Bengali.

# FIR: US-sanctioned oil tanker was in Pak waters with systems off for 8 days

**Mumbai/New Delhi:** One of the three US-sanctioned Iran-linked oil tankers seized by Indian Coast Guard (ICG) on Feb 6 off the country's coast had spent days inside Pakistan's maritime boundary with its tracking systems switched off, according to an FIR filed in Mumbai, **report Mateen Hafeez & Surendra Singh.**

ICG had seized three ships — Asphalt Star, Stellar Ruby and Al Jafzia — around 100 nautical miles west of Mumbai for probe and lodged a police complaint on Feb 15 against nine people, including the owner of the three ships for alleged illegal activities and smuggling oil linked to Iran. There were 55 crew members on board the vessels. Based on the complaint of Aniruddha Dharampal Dabash (40), an ICG commandant, Mumbai police arrested MT Asphalt Star captain and a crew member for their alleged role in oil smuggling & forgery. TOI has the copy of the FIR. It said MT Asphalt Star was found to have illegally transferred 30 metric tonnes of heavy fuel oil to MT AL Jafiza in the EEZ of the Indian Ocean by conducting ship to ship operation without informing any Indian govt authorities. It was also found to have illegally transferred 5473 metric tonnes of Bitumen used for road construction to MT stellar Ruby.

# Off ventilator, gritty teen goes for board exam on stretcher

**Chandigarh:** Thirteen days. That's how long Kanishka Bist (17) was on a ventilator, as machines breathed for her and doctors kept constant watch. On Friday, wheeled in on a stretcher, still hooked to an oxygen cylinder, she wrote her Class 12 board exam, **reports Akashdeep Virk.**

"We were stunned but admired her determination. She was very clear that she did not want to miss the exam," her father Prem Singh Bist said. Kanishka chose to write the paper herself. A student of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Khalsa Senior Secondary School in Sector 26, Chandigarh, Kanishka has been living with muscular dystrophy since birth.


राष्ट्रीय ध्रुवीय एवं समुद्री अनुसंधान केन्द्र
NATIONAL CENTRE FOR POLAR AND OCEAN RESEARCH
Vasco-da-Gama, Goa-403804

अनुबंधात्मक आधार पर चिकित्सकों का साक्षात्कार
**Medical Doctors Interview on Contract basis**

**4th May, 2026**

राष्ट्रीय ध्रुवीय और समुद्री अनुसंधान केंद्र (एनसीपीओआर), पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के अंतर्गत, भारतीय अंटार्कटिक कार्यक्रम के समन्वय और क्रियान्वयन के लिए एक नोडल संस्थान है। एनसीपीओआर अनुबंध के आधार पर चिकित्सकों (मेडिकल डॉक्टरों) से आवेदन आमंत्रित करता है, जो अंटार्कटिका में इसके अनुसंधान स्टेशनों (भारती, लारसेमन हिल्स; मैत्री, शिरमाचेर ओएसिस; और/या समुद्री यात्रा -अंटार्कटिका में) पर कार्य करने के इच्छुक हों। अनुबंध अवधि 2026 से 2028 तक 46वें भारतीय वैज्ञानिक अभियान के लिए होगी। सूचीबद्ध किए गए चिकित्सकों के साक्षात्कार 4 मई 2026 को पृथ्वी भवन, इंडिया हैबिटेटसेंटर के सामने, लोधी रोड, नई दिल्ली-110003 में आयोजित किए जाएंगे।

The National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India, is the nodal institute for coordinating and executing the Indian Antarctic Programme. NCPOR invites applications from Medical Doctors on a contract basis for its research stations (Bharati, Larsemann Hills; Maitri, Schirmacher Oasis; and/or onboard Voyage) in Antarctica. The contract period for the 46th Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica, covering 2026 to 2028. Interviews for shortlisted Medical Doctors will be conducted on 4th May 2026 at the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Prithvi Bhawan, IMD Campus, Opp. India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110 003

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राष्ट्रीय ध्रुवीय एवं समुद्री अनुसंधान केन्द्र
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पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार
Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt. of India
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**स्थान: पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय, पृथ्वी भवन, आईएमडी कैंपस, , लोधी रोड, नई दिल्ली -110 003**
**Venue: Ministry of Earth Sciences, Prithvi Bhawan, IMD Campus, , Lodhi Road, New Delhi -110 003**

राष्ट्रीय ध्रुवीय और महासागर अनुसंधान केंद्र (एनसीपीओआर), पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय (एमओईएस), भारत सरकार (जीओआई) का एक स्वायत्त संस्थान है, जो भारतीय अंटार्कटिक वैज्ञानिक अभियान के समन्वय के लिए जिम्मेदार है। एनसीपीओआर अनुबंध के आधार पर प्रशिक्षित कर्मियों की भर्ती कर रहा है, जिसमें निम्नलिखित पद शामिल हैं: वाहन मैकेनिक, वाहन इलेक्ट्रीशियन , एक्सकवेटिंग मशीन ऑपरेटर, क्रेन ऑपरेटर, स्टेशन इलेक्ट्रीशियन, जनरेटर मैकेनिक और ऑपरेटर, वेल्डर, बॉयलर ऑपरेटर और मैकेनिक/प्लंबर/फिटर, बढ़ई, वॉयेज सपोर्ट असिस्टेंट, पुरुष नर्स, वैज्ञानिक सहायक, रेडियो/वायरलेस ऑपरेटर, इन्वेंटरी एवं स्टोर्स सहायक, शेफ/कुक. भारतीय अनुसंधान केंद्रों (अंटार्कटिका) में 06 से 18 महीने की अवधि के लिए वाहनों और जीवन-रक्षक प्रणालियों के संचालन एवं रखरखाव हेतु इन प्रशिक्षित कर्मियों की आवश्यकता है।

आवेदकों को साक्षात्कार के समय सत्यापन के लिए मूल प्रमाण पत्र / दस्तावेज के साथ प्रासंगिक प्रमाण पत्रों की स्व-सत्यापित फोटो प्रतियों के एक सेट और एक पासपोर्ट साइज फोटो (सफेद बैकग्राउंड) साथ लाने की आवश्यकता है। जिन आवेदकों के पास मूल प्रमाण पत्र/दस्तावेज नहीं हैं, उन्हें साक्षात्कार में शामिल होने की अनुमति नहीं दी जाएगी। पात्रता, दस्तावेजीकरण और संविदात्मक वेतन संबंधी विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए हमारी वेबसाइट www.ncpor.res.in पर जाएं या सोमवार से शुक्रवार, सुबह 10:00 बजे से शाम 5:00 बजे तक 0832-2525526/23/20 पर संपर्क करें। वॉक-इन-इंटरव्यू का आयोजन निम्नलिखित पते पर किया जाएगा: पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, पृथ्वी भवन, इंडिया हैबिटेट सेंटर के सामने, लोधी रोड, नई दिल्ली - 110003

National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), an autonomous Institution under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Government of India (GoI), is responsible for coordinating the Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica. NCPOR is looking for trained manpower (Vehicle Mechanic, Vehicle Electrician, OEM, Crane Operator, Station Electrician, Generator Mechanic & Operator; Welder; Boiler Operator & Mechanic/ Plumber/ Fitter; Carpenter; Voyage Support Assistant; Male Nurse; Scientific Assistant; Radio/ Wireless Operator; Inventory & Stores Assistant and Chef/Cook) on a contract basis. The manpower required for the operation and maintenance of vehicles and life support systems at Indian Research Bases, Antarctica, for the duration of 06 to 18 months.

Applicants need to bring original certificates/documents for verification at the time of interview along with one set of self-attested photo copies of relevant certificates and recent passport size colour photo in white background. Applicants not having original certificates/documents will not be allowed to attend the interview. For details regarding eligibility, documentation, online enrolment, and contractual wages, please visit our website www.ncpor.res.in or contact 0832-2525526/23/20 between 10:00 hrs to 17:00 hrs from Monday to Friday. **A walk-in interview will be conducted at the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India, Prithvi Bhawan, opposite India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110003.**

Advt No:NCPOR/2026/03 For & on behalf of **Director, NCPOR**



PSPCL **Punjab State Power Corporation Limited**
(Regd Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identification Number (CIN) : U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website : www.pspcl.in (Contact Number 9646123323)
**Tender Inquiry No. PPR-07/2026 Dated : 18.02.2026**

Chief Engineer/PP&R Organization, Shed No. D-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender under three part bid system for supply of electrical energy (RE-Solar) from Interstate/Intrastate sources viz. Generators, Traders having Valid Inter State Trading License issued by CERC for interstate trading of energy, intrastate trading license issued by PSERC for intrastate trading of energy, State Electricity Boards, State Electricity Utilities, States, IPPs & CPPs from 5th March 2026 to 31st March 2026. The link for the e-Bidding portal is www.mstcecommerce.com and is also available on the website of Ministry of Power (www.Powermin.nic.in) and PFC Consultancy Limited (www.pfcindia.com). For detailed NIT & tender specifications please refer to www.mstcecommerce.com from 18.02.2026 onwards.

Note :- Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at www.mstcecommerce.com



भारत सरकार/Government of India
अंतरिक्ष विभाग/Department of Space
उत्तर-पूर्वी अंतरिक्ष उपयोग केंद्र/North Eastern Space Applications Centre
उमियम/Umiam – 793103, मेघालय/Meghalaya
Tel: 0364-2570774/2308788/81
Email : cmd.nesac@nesac.gov.in

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना /NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Director, NESAC invites, online EPC tenders for the following work:

| कार्य का नाम / Name of Work | एनआईटी सं. / NIT No. | अनुमानित राशि / Estimated Amount (in ₹) | बयाना राशि (ईएमडी) / Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (in ₹) | कार्य पूरा करने के लिए दिया गया अवधि / Period allowed for Completion of work |
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| Planning, Design and Construction of Hostel and Subsidiary building at NESAC Umiam, Meghalaya (Civil, PH, Electrical and other allied works) in EPC Mode | Tender Notice No NESAC/ DIR/CMD/28/2026 dated 13.02.2026 | 601.53 Lakhs | ₹ 12,03,060/- | बारह (12) महीने Twelve (12) months |

For further detail kindly visit www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO, www.nesac.gov.in. Corrigendum if any will be issued in websites only.

Sd/-
निदेशक/Director, NESAC

दिनांक/Dated: 13.02.2026



अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, गुवाहाटी
**ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, GUWAHATI**
(A statutory body under the aegis of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GoI)
Changsari, Kamrup, Assam-781101, Website: www.aiimsguwahati.ac.in

No. 2-43/2022-23/AIIMS/GHY/ESTT./RECT-FACT/Pt-III/3986 Date: 13.02.2026

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Sd/-
Executive Director,
AIIMS, Guwahati.

### A thought for today

*We are fast approaching the stage of the ultimate inversion: the stage where govt is free to do anything it pleases, while citizens may act only by permission*

– AYN RAND

# Trump Tariffs Not Dead

*But he'll likely be less of a bully now*

Has US supreme court killed Trump's tariffs, or merely hit pause? It's too soon to say. Trump's first reaction, per *Reuters*, was that the ruling was a "disgrace", and he'd have to do something about the courts. Which isn't out of character, but did he really expect to win this round? Even with a 6-3 conservative majority, the court during Nov's hearings had been sceptical of his administration's "warlike emergency" justification for tariffs. One of Trump's own appointee judges had asked whether Spain and France indeed posed a threat to America's defence and industrial base. In Friday's judgment, chief justice John Roberts said as much: "United States, after all, is not at war with every nation in the world."

But Trump is. That's why the tariff saga won't be over till it's over. Using a half-century-old law – International Emergency Economic Powers Act – he's roiled international trade through the first year of his term. And most analysts don't expect him to change course. As Brett Kavanaugh, a dissenting judge, wrote, this ruling won't keep Trump "from imposing most, if not all, of these same sorts of tariffs under other statutory authorities." In Jan, Trump's top trade negotiator Jamieson Greer had also said, if the admin lost its case, it would "start the next day" to reestablish tariffs.

A return to the Feb 2025 baseline then seems unlikely, especially because it involves refunding up to $175bn collected in tariffs. However, Trump won't have the same sweeping powers under other measures at his disposal. He'll probably have to conduct tariff negotiations with greater civility now. Meanwhile, we have more uncertainty trade-wise, not less. Months of negotiations and hard-won trade deals – including India's – seem to have been in vain. Unless you count the majesty of law – SCOTUS cutting POTUS down to size – as a reward.

# Junk This Idea

*Guj bid to change marriage regn rules violates rights*

Gujarat govt's dubious, to say the least, proposal to amend marriage registration rules says a married couple must provide a declaration that "parents were informed" of their marriage. That will, of course, give parents the power to block a marriage registration. Did govt ask whether this is constitutional, especially since all govts are led by constitutional post-holders, in this case a CM? The reported trigger for the proposal is demands from Patidars and Thakors, because "girls are running away". It is such regressive ideas – that girls asserting their right to marry their choice is dishonourable – that legislators need to counter. So, when the demand was raised, it was for BJP govt to say no. Instead, govt and legislature prepared to cast this regressive idea in stone, even though it will be found to be in conflict with constitutional safeguards of Article 21.

Marriage registration is mandatory. Without registration, the marriage isn't void, but a couple does not have official marital status needed for govt records, IDs (passports/visas), inheritance, financial nominations, joint accounts… name any document. If this rule is allowed, consenting married adults will face untold persecution by the state. The target here is what toxic tradition calls "love marriage". That's a short descriptor for marriages outside rigid caste/community boundaries. But inter-caste marriages are barely 5% across India, more among rural and low-income groups, per NCAER. Inter-faith marriages, weaponised as the political project of "love jihad", are too few as well. The numbers, though, are not the point. What is is that the freedom of an adult to marry a person of their choice, and the couple's right to live legally and freely, is a constitutional guarantee. That's what central BJP leadership must consider and that's why it should tell Gujarat govt to withdraw the proposal.

# Why & How Wars Will Never End

*And with AI, the way nations fight will get nastier*

In late 1940s, many pundits believed that World War 2 would be the last large-scale military conflict. With the clarion call of "never again", it was hoped that the world had entered a phase of long-term peace. ***Conflict: The Evolution of Warfare from 1945 to Gaza*** by ***General David Petraeus*** and ***Andrew Roberts*** puts this hypothesis to a severe test. The authors show that not only did conflict not go away but evolved in surprising ways.

After nukes were added to arsenals, with multiple countries testing their own nuclear weapons, the concept of Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) came to dominate military-strategic discourse. However, MAD only put an upper limit to warfare, per the authors. It opened up a whole range of conflict situations and military tactics that could be carried out below that nuclear threshold. These evolved in stages over multiple conflict theatres.

**mindfield**
SHORT TAKES ON BIG IDEAS

For example, the Chinese civil war – the first big consequential conflict after WWII – saw the better equipped nationalist forces under Chiang Kai-shek get routed by Mao's communist peasant soldiers. While much of this was due to the nationalist forces' losses fighting the Japanese in WWII, it was also due to Chiang's personality. The Generalissimo had a centralised command structure and surrounded himself with 'yes men' who avoided giving their leader tough advice.

The pattern repeated with American General MacArthur in the Korean war. MacArthur cultivated for himself a larger-than-life image that couldn't be questioned. As a result, the war between communist North Korea and US-backed South Korea saw massive loss of lives and a frozen conflict. Per the authors, Korea and then Vietnam also created an impression among communist autocracies that capitalist, liberal democracies were flaky and didn't have the stomach to go the distance in a fight.

Plus, the history of conflicts since 1945 shows that autocracies sans internal opposition are more inclined to mount surprise attacks to initiate wars, be it Korea in 1950 or Saddam Hussein in the first Gulf War. However, this doesn't necessarily give the aggressor a long-term advantage.

Meanwhile, the evolution of guerrilla tactics, particularly in Vietnam, showed that underfunded, rag-tag forces could defeat much richer modern Western armies. But India also showed in Kashmir in 1947 how effective counter-insurgency operations could be mounted. Despite wars with Pakistan in 1965, 1971, 1999 – and more recently during Op Sindoor – India has managed to prevent the low-intensity conflict in Kashmir from evolving into a bigger conflict.

But in Russia's war in Ukraine, Moscow made some classic mistakes – it underestimated Ukraine's resilience, pushed over-optimistic propaganda and conducted a WWII-style military campaign that is completely ill-suited to modern warfare. In Gaza, it was Israel that underestimated Hamas's capability to launch a terror attack with military tactics.

So, what's the future of warfare? The authors say conflicts are bound to become more multi-dimensional with everything from national currencies to public opinion being weaponised. This also changes the meaning of victory and defeat, making them temporary positions. The world might just be entering an era of continuous war where new technologies like AI can potentially weaponise every aspect of our lives.

# Kings, Queens & Jack Of Dirty Trade

*Does Andrew's Epstein-related arrest show that Britain is more equal than Trump's America? That's a weird reading of a case exposing how grotesquely all monarchies, even now, intertwine extreme privilege with exceptional impunity*

**Rashmee Roshan Lall**

Columnist based in London

The arrest of a man formerly known as prince, Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor, is consequential because the affairs of this scandal-scarred brother of Britain's reigning monarch seem a grotesque link between old world and new, the entitled aristocracy and modern-day plutocracy.

This fallen British royal's case symbolises the deep intertwining of extreme privilege (that includes demanding extraordinary deference) with exceptional impunity. In his former role as Britain's trade and investment envoy (a job for which Buckingham Palace reportedly lobbied hard despite Andrew having no discernible qualifications), the globe-trotting prince appears to have shared sensitive commercial documents with the late child sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. Andrew is now being investigated on suspicion of misconduct in public office, which carries a maximum sentence of life imprisonment.

These events have come to pass seven years after Andrew went on TV to brazenly acknowledge a relationship of sorts with Epstein. He denied wrongdoing but conceded that his equation with the convicted paedophile included private planes and islands and "the people that I met and the opportunities that I was given to learn either by him or because of him were actually very useful".

For Epstein, the trade-off included, in Andrew's memorable words, "a straightforward shooting weekend" at Balmoral, the British royal family's private Highland estate. It was a clumsy attempt to explain that Epstein hadn't been a guest at a glamorous royal party so much as a companion in the muddy pursuits enjoyed by the English upper classes.

This tone-deaf revelation spoke to the 21st century interplay of celebrity power and predation. Epstein schmoozed both new royalty and old, connecting freshly minted kings of business and politics with old-style princes of many realms. Thus, no matter how much it was shaken, the kaleidoscope continued to settle into a two-tier world: thin upper crust, thickly underlaid by chaff.

Andrew is hardly the only stain on the royal record book in relation to Epstein. Norway's Crown Princess Mette-Marit has publicly apologised for the "content" of hundreds of warm emails she exchanged with Epstein even after he had served a jail term. Belgium's Prince Laurent had to clarify that he met Epstein privately on two occasions, after initially saying he had never attended any event involving him.

But as things stand, publics everywhere seem stoic, even tolerant. Andrew technically remains eighth in line to the British throne. Laurent, brother of Philippe, king of the Belgians, is 15th. Mette-Marit will be queen when her husband succeeds his 89-year-old father.

Beyond Epstein and beyond Europe, there have been multiple royal controversies bordering on scandal in the past 15 years. Spain's former king Juan Carlos abdicated and went into exile, disgraced after years of extramarital affairs and alleged financial irregularities. Thailand's King Rama X succeeded his revered father's 70 years on the throne only to cause a stir when he declared Crown wealth his personal property rather than notionally in trust for the people. Monaco's ruler, Prince Albert, married a former South African Olympic swimmer despite her apparent attempts, three times over, to run away from him. Accounts abound about Gulf royalty's egregious behaviour at home and abroad.

And yet, the monarchy as an institution seems to be doing just fine. In Norway, it still has solid respect, with Europe's leading data collector Norstat finding 73% public support late last year. In Britain, a mid-Feb Ipsos poll found that 51% still think there will be a monarchy 50 years on, 70% think it will exist in 20 years' time and 79% think it will exist in 10 years.

In a curious inversion, some commentators are saying Andrew's arrest is a sign that Britain, a constitutional monarchy, is a more equal society than the US republic. In Trump's America, they argue, no real action is being contemplated against sexual abusers and enablers while the elected president exercises kingly authority over all levers of the state.

The wonder of it all is that publics still put up with royal families and all that bowing and scraping and tugging of the forelock. They acquiesce in a system that offers lucrative rewards to lineage. They are even amenable to rules that enshrine injustice. These include Thailand's *lese majeste* law, one of the harshest in the world, as well as the iniquitous arrangement that absolves the British monarch from public disclosure of inherited assets and tax liability.

Europe prides itself on its egalitarian instincts and democratic institutions but its 10 royal families represent one of the largest concentrations of inherited privilege. It's hard to properly estimate the wealth of Britain's Windsors, Spain's Bourbons, Sweden's Bernadottes, Denmark's Glücksburgs, Norway's Glücksburgs, Netherlands' van Orange-Nassau, Monaco's Grimaldis, the Grand Ducal Family of Luxembourg, Belgium's van Belgie, and Liechtenstein's von und zu Liechtenstein. However, the last are considered the richest.

Strangely, not only do people put up with royalty, they quixotically demand its return following spurts of republicanism. After the 1815 Congress of Vienna, monarchy became a popular way to organise new nations. India, which dispatched princely states to the history books 55 years ago, hasn't felt the nostalgic urge but Nepal is coming over all teary for its king, 18 years – and 14 changes of govt – after sending the monarchy packing. Even sections of Iranian society appear to be calling for US-based Reza Pahlavi, son of the autocratic last Shah who was forced to flee the country.

Some say royalty is unique in being able to fulfil social, legal and symbolic functions all in one. It serves as a conceptual placeholder for the state and gives it a human face, even as it reflects back to the people their ideal image of the collective. But what real value has a gilded system built purely on the accident of birth?

# A Memsahib's Adventures With An Elevator, Or Two

**What's going on with rich folk who don't like domestic staff sharing the ride up to their plush home in the tower? Why are they so scared? Is it fear of losing privilege in a changing world?**

**Radhika Vaz**

I live in a gated community, which means I am a proud menace to society. To take our entitlement to max, we have a segregated elevator system. Staff get one elevator to ride in and residents get two. Residents may use the staff elevator whenever the mood strikes us but staff may never use ours.

All was going well until we began an upgrade on the elevator system. To this end we have to shut down one elevator as it gets replaced so residents now have just one. Staff still have their elevator BUT they have to share it with construction men and materials. The result of this is that my cook is heavily delayed waiting for the staff elevator. Naturally we residents continue to pick and choose what elevator to ride in, unencumbered by the issues of those who make our lives more pleasant.

Because I am a madam who likes her breakfast served on the dot of 7.30am I was infuriated enough to do the unthinkable. I requested for staff and residents to please share elevators until services are fully restored. And this is when I realised I do not live in the Millennium City of Gurgaon, but in the TV show *Bridgerton*.

The push-back to my suggestion of maids, cooks and cleaners sharing the elevator with women and men of high position such as myself was swift and merciless. Senior members of the Ton informed me that this was a rule made by those above my pay grade and one Queen told me that staff will scratch the shiny new surface of the resident elevator. She said this right after I witnessed a 4-year-old resident Lord lick the elevator wall while his young parents stared intently at their Samsung Galaxy Phones (I do not judge their hardware dear reader, I leave that to you). I am sure the boy's nanny would have stepped in but she was travelling in the staff elevator weighted down by the young master's school bag.

As I watched this young elitist-in-the-making smear his saliva all over the elevator wall, though to his credit not scratch at it, I was taken back to the year my husband and I were preparing to purchase our flat. I admit we were not sure that the complex was grand enough for us

Uday Deb

**Of Life And Love**
STORIES OF THE WAY WE ARE

but then we met the real estate agent who put my mind at ease. After a full tour of the flat he opened the door to the servants quarter. First, let me say I was delighted to hear people throw the word 'servant' around like it isn't the worst, most out-dated word we can possibly use. I was sick of my woke niece and her insistence on words like 'staff', 'nanny' and 'maid' when 'servant' has such a nice inferior ring to it.

But it was what he said next that sealed the deal. He assured us that the servants quarter, and it really is a quarter dear reader, a quarter of a room that is, had been constructed as cheaply as possible. That it was absolutely not on par with the rest of the apartment. Great selling point – a servant should never think that they have anything in common with us. My husband and I signed the parchment with our quills there and then.

I tell you this so you understand that even though I am asking for equal elevator rights I am still one of you. And while I am sorry to all those in my socio-economic group, being served my delicately scrambled eggs even one second after 7.30am is intolerable so I broke rank and pursued the matter of the elevator apartheid. Luckily I was able to eke out some like-minded Lords and Ladies, who despite their blue blood were willing to go along with my plan to allow at least female staffers to use both elevators, and I get to eat my toast on time.

Yesterday my aforementioned niece called to tell me how pleased she is that our building is so egalitarian. She went on to give me her opinion (as if I asked) on why we create a separation between them and us. Apparently, and these are her words not mine, it is out of fear. Fear that we will lose what little position we have left in this rapidly changing world. We keep people down because we are afraid of real competition. If you think it's hard for your wall-lickers to get into a decent school now, wait till every single maid and driver starts to get paid what they really deserve and their kids get to apply to the same schools and colleges.

I leave it to you to decipher what she was on about dear friends because I had stopped paying attention. I was too busy glaring at my cook because I caught her drinking water out of my water glass when I have so thoughtfully put aside two old, stained and chipped teacups especially for her.

*The writer is a standup comedian*

## Calvin & Hobbes

## Sacredspace

*I always believed that when you follow your heart or your gut, when you really follow the things that feel great to you, you can never lose, because settling is the worst feeling in the world.*

**Rihanna**

# Love: The Dividend That Grows As You Give

**Sonal Srivastava**

Who does not want to be rich? We all want fat bank accounts, beautiful properties in pristine Alps or cottages in Himalayas; a house by a beach and a farmhouse near a bustling metro, where we might retreat for quiet time after exhausting ourselves with city life, forays into malls and cinema halls, clubs, five-star brunches, soirées at friends' and concerts headlined by our favourite rock stars – luxuries of life are expensive. But true wealth is an uncountable noun. If you know exactly how much you have, you probably do not have enough.

The wealth of love is beyond measure. Greeks call it agape, love for its own sake. In its purest form, love makes the world go round, for it is the most widely recognised and deeply felt emotion across the globe. It rises beyond language; it is a dialect of Korean dramas and an idiom of OTT platforms, and no Bollywood movie is ever complete without its leading pair. From Raj Kapoor and Nargis to Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol, actors have enacted this emotion with utmost sincerity.

In a film starring Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol, a song goes: "*Rom-rom tera naam pukare, Ek hue din rain humare, Humse hum hi chhin gaye hain, Jabse dekhe hain nain tihare (sajdaa)/ Teri kaali akhiyon se jind meri jaage/ Dhadkan se tez daudoon, sapno se aage/ Ab jaan lut jaaye, ye jahaan chhut jaaye/ Sang pyaar rahe, main rahoon, na rahoon*" – every pore of my body calls out your name. Our days and nights have become one. I feel as though I've been taken from myself. Ever since my eyes met yours. From your dark, kohl-lined eyes, my life awakens. I run faster than my heartbeat, beyond my dreams. Now, even if my life is lost, even if this world slips away, let love remain – whether I remain or not.

It can safely be said that the more love you give, more it grows. "If you can't be with the one you love, love the one you're with" is a phrase from a 1970s hit song by Stephen Stills.

THE SPEAKING TREE

"A life without love is of no account. Do not ask yourself what kind of love you should seek – spiritual or material, divine or mundane, eastern or western. Divisions only lead to more divisions. Love has no labels, no definitions. It is what it is – pure and simple. Love is the water of life, and a lover is a soul of fire. The universe turns differently when fire loves water," said Shams Tabrizi, *pir-o-murshid* of Rumi, who saw Shams not merely as a teacher but as an agent of transformation.

In one of his poems on ecstasy and longing, Rumi says, "Why should I seek more? I am the same as he. His essence speaks through me. I have been looking for myself."

For is it not the Guru who helps us walk spiritual path, inviting us to taste wine of divinity flowing from the chalice of Atman? Guru and the Self are one, and so we wish to unite with them, heart and soul. In Gita, Krishn says, "On those ever united through meditation with Me and worshipping Me with love, I confer that yog of wisdom through which they come to Me," and "Whosoever offers Me with love a leaf, a flower, a fruit or even water, I appear in person before that selfless devotee of sinless mind, and delightfully partake of that article offered by him with love."

For have we not dreamt of singing to our lovers – "You're my heart, you're my soul, That is the only thing I really know, You're my heart, you're my soul, Yeah, a feelin' that our love will grow."

The Week That Was...

## Sensex Ekes Out Slim Gains Despite US-Iran Tensions

Indian share benchmarks logged weekly gains, helped by a tactical bounce on Friday, as optimism around earnings recovery fuelled gains in banks, while worries about US-Iran tensions and AI disruption weighed

Sensex 0.2%

# TIMES BUSINESS



| Sensex Gainers | |
|---|---|
| L&T | 5% |
| ITC | 4.2% |
| PowerGrid | 4.1% |

| Laggards | |
|---|---|
| Eternal | -5.5% |
| TechMahindra | -5.1% |
| Trent | -3.8% |

| GOLD | CRUDE | BITCOIN |
|---|---|---|
| 1.6% | 3.4% | 1.1% |

₹40L cr

Currency in circulation touched a record Rs 40 lakh crore in Jan, rising 11.1% year-on-year, even as its share in the economy declined

Source: screener.in, ETIG, Reuters

# Trade deal on track, relations with India 'fantastic': Trump

## India Keeping Close Tabs On Prez's Response To SC Ruling

Times News Network

**New Delhi:** US president Donald Trump on Friday said that the India trade deal was on track and described his relations with the country as "fantastic".

Indian authorities are closely watching Trump administration's response to the US Supreme Court decision on tariffs, with some seeing a possible room for manoeuvrer as the interim trade deal is yet to be signed. India has agreed to reduce tariffs on majority of items as part of the interim trade deal in return for the US lowering reciprocal tariffs to 18%, with sector-specific tariffs on iron and steel, copper and aluminum and auto and auto parts staying at 50%. Govt did not comment, with officials saying it was too early to gauge the ruling's impact.

"India has not signed the agreement yet so there may be some scope for a dialogue. But we will wait and see how the US govt responds to the ruling," an official said. A team led by India's chief negotiator Darpan Jain is headed to Washington to finalise the legal text with US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer.

The USTR is scheduled to visit Delhi to sign the interim agreement next month.

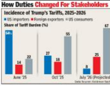
Earlier Friday, commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal had said that the agreement will be operationalised in April. On Friday, Indonesia became the latest country to sign a trade deal with the US, locking reciprocal tariffs at 19%. It joins Malaysia, Argentina, Cambodia, Guatemala, El Salvador, Bangladesh and Taiwan, which have signed trade agreements. Some American experts have suggested that the validity of the deals is under question as the Congress may step in.

Govt is approaching the development with caution, given that tariffs have been a core policy tool used by the American president since returning to office last year.

Trump has used 'Plan B' by invoking provisions under section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974 — temporary tariffs of up to 15% for balance of payments reasons — and decided to impose 10% additional tariff on all countries. Besides, Trump said he will use section 301 to order investigations against countries for unfair trade practices. The probes may take five months, he indicated.

The US is the largest market for Indian exports, accounting for nearly a fifth of the shipments from the country with products such as textiles, leather, shrimps and gems and jewellery hit hardest due to the 50% tariffs.

### How Duties Changed For Stakeholders




### Apple set to be one of biggest gainers

Apple stands to be one of the biggest beneficiaries of the Supreme Court's ruling that US President Donald Trump had exceeded his authority when imposing tariffs on nearly every US trading partner. Apple makes almost all of its products in countries that faced high levies, such as China. Over past three quarters, Apple paid about $3.3 billion in total in tariffs. NYT

# US SC ruling: Unexpected relief for exporters

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**New Delhi:** There was an unexpected relief for Indian exporters as American president Donald Trump imposed 10% additional tariff on all imports coming into the US following the US Supreme Court ruling turning his reciprocal tariffs illegal. Despite the fresh levy, the additional tariffs will drop from the current 25%, in addition to the MFN or product specific rate, to 10%. Besides, it will result in a level-playing field among all countries that existed until early Aug. Sector-specific tariffs will, however, stay.

While Trump had imposed 50% tariffs on Indian exports, the 25% reciprocal tariffs have been done away with. With the interim agreement finalised, the US was to lower the additional levy to 18%. "Indian industry has received a significant positive development... This decision brings relief to labour-intensive sectors, particularly the footwear and leather industry," said Puran Dawar, the northern region chairman for CLE.

Saurabh Agarwal, tax partner at EY India said the "judicial correction" strengthens India's negotiating hand.

Trade research body GTRI said the ruling should prompt India to re-examine its trade deal with the US. "The decision effectively renders recent trade deals initiated or concluded by the US with the UK, Japan, the EU, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam and India one-sided and useless. Partner countries may now find reasons to dump these deals," it said.

"This ruling against Trump would reassert Congress's primacy in trade policy, sharply curbing presidential latitude to weaponise tariffs and reshaping how future administrations wield emergency economic powers," it added. While the order has raised hopes of exporters getting refunds, the court did not make any such observation. The case will now go back to the Court of International Trade to sort through the refunds, said Reuters.

# Embraer seeks 200 jet order to make in India

## If We Get The Orders This Year, Final Assembly Line Will Be Ready To Roll Out Jets In 2028: CEO

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**New Delhi:** Getting "firm orders for 200 plus" aircraft from Indian carriers is the key to Embraer setting up a final assembly line (FAL) in the country for commercial fixed-wing aircraft. And if hitting the double century takes a while, a start could be made with a "completion centre" where ordered aircraft will fly in from Brazil; be painted, fitted with seats and other interior work before being delivered to local customers.

In India for the first time after the Brazilian aerospace major signed an MoU with Adani Group last month to set up a FAL for its popular regional jets, Embraer president & CEO Francisco Gomes Neto shared the details for his plans for the country.

"Being the fastest growing aviation market globally, a big economy, expanding airport network and PM Modi's successful UDAN scheme giving a filip to regional flights, India will need at least 500 regional jets in coming years. As far as Embraer goes, we need a firm order of 200 jets for the FAL here to be viable and feasible. The same can come up in 24 months of starting work. So if we get the orders this year, the FAL will be ready to roll out jets in 2028," Francisco Gomes Neto told **TOI**.

In his pursuit for orders, he will be meeting decision-makers at leading Indian aviation players including Tata Group's Air India Friday. A meeting with IndiGo is on the cards in coming days. In India, Embraer is looking at assembling its 76-88 seater E175 regional jet which are used for short to medium-haul flights. There are at present eight E175 with Star Air and one in Reliance Industries fleet. Partner Adani group is scouting for sites, with Dholera in Gujarat being the frontrunner.

"For the last one-and-a-half years we are working on having a supplier base in India to buy parts for the jets coming out of our Brazilian FAL. Most recently, we have signed an MoU with Hindalco to identify possibilities in aerospace grade aluminium raw material manufacturing to strengthen our commitment to 'make in India'. As of now we have over 15 supply chain partners in India," said Gomes Neto, who has been heading Embraer since May 2019.

At present Embraer has FALs only in Brazil (for defence and commercial jets) and the US (for business jets). Apart from them, it manufactures some parts in Portugal. "We are coming to India primarily to serve the Indian market. Once we are here (meaning the FAL is set up), we will look to meet the requirement of nearby markets from India. Expanding production capacity is in our interest and given India's potential, expecting firm orders for 200 jets is very reasonable," he said. The company is planning the entire ecosystem in India, including a maintenance, repair and overhaul, pilot training and full flight simulator. Embraer has taken the same route in the defence space too. It plans to establish a MRO capability in India for the C-390 Millennium "upon selection in the Indian Air Force's medium transport aircraft" programme.

### TO MEET AIR INDIA, INDIGO EXECS

➤ In his pursuit for orders, **Embraer president & CEO Francisco Gomes Neto** will be meeting decision-makers at **Air India** and **IndiGo**

➤ In India, Embraer is looking at assembling its **76-88 seater E175 regional jet** which are used for short to medium-haul flights

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➤ At present, Embraer has final assembly lines only in **Brazil** (for defence and commercial jets) and the **US** (for business jets

"As far as Embraer goes, we need a firm order of 200 jets for the FAL here to be viable and feasible... Expanding production capacity is in our interest and given India's potential, expecting firm orders for 200 jets is very reasonable

# Wall St rises after landmark ruling

US stocks climbed on Friday, with the Nasdaq leading gains after the Supreme Court struck down President Donald Trump's global tariffs, offering relief to investors after weaker-than-expected economic data dented sentiment earlier in the day.

Shares of US toymakers Hasbro and Mattel, online furniture retailer Wayfair, Pottery Barn-owner Williams-Sonoma and luxury furniture retailer RH—some of the companies that were hit by the tariffs—climbed after the verdict.

Solar companies including First Solar and Canadian Solar and homebuilders Pultegroup and Lennar also rose.

"It's still too early to make a broad reaching assessment... initially the perception will be that this should help ease some of the inflationary pressures, should the Supreme Court decision have staying power," said Michael James, equity sales trader at Rosenblatt Securities based in Los Angeles. "That's why you're seeing a notable rally not only in the market overall but in consumer-related names specifically."

Thousands of companies around the world have filed lawsuits challenging Trump's sweeping tariffs and sought refunds on the duties they have paid. There is a risk more than $175 billion in US tariff collections will need to be refunded, according to Penn-Wharton Budget Model economists.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 114 points, or 0.2%, to 49,509, the S&P 500 gained 43.7 points, or 0.6%, to 6,905.6, and the Nasdaq Composite advanced 250.3 points, or 1.1%, to 22,853.

Seven of the 11 S&P sectors were trading higher, with the communication services index leading gains, boosted by a 4.5% rise in Alphabet. REUTERS

### US GDP misses forecasts, grows 1.4%

The US economy grew less than expected at the end of last year, dragged down by a record-long govt shutdown, consumer spending and trade. Inflation-adjusted GDP increased an annualized 1.4% in the fourth quarter after rising 4.4% in the prior period, according to the govt's initial estimate out Friday. Overall, the economy expanded 2.2% last year, data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis showed. BLOOMBERG

# Novartis to exit listed Indian arm in ₹1,446cr deal

## PE Funds Led By ChrysCapital To Buy Swiss Co's 71% Stake

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**New Delhi:** Swiss drug firm Novartis will sell its entire stake of nearly 71% in its listed Indian subsidiary for about Rs 1,446 crore to a clutch of private equity investors, led by ChrysCapital.

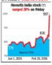
The exit comes two years after the parent began a strategic review of its Indian subsidiary, including assessing its stake in the Mumbai-based firm, with the objective to focus on high-value, innovation-led medicines.

Novartis said in a regulatory filing it has notified the Novartis India board that it has entered into an agreement with ChrysCapital, WaveRise Investments and Two Infinity Partners to transfer its 70.7% shareholding. The group also announced a mandatory open offer to buy an additional 26% of the company at Rs 881 per share. Novartis India closed 20% up at Rs 997 on BSE on Friday.

At Davos 2026, Novartis global CEO Vas Narasimhan reaffirmed that the divestment remains on track while underscoring Novartis's commitment to India's long-term potential.

The firm operates in India through two entities: the listed company with its legacy portfolio, and the unlisted Novartis Healthcare with its high-value innovative medicines. After the deal, the parent will retain the latter, and expand its portfolio of cardio, renal, metabolic and oncology portfolio.

### STREET REACTION




# Govt announces measures to boost exports

Times News Network

**New Delhi:** Govt on Friday launched seven measures under the export promotion mission (EPM), a Rs 25,060-crore initiative aimed at boosting exports by easing finance, compliance and logistics hurdles faced by MSMEs.

Of the 11 proposed interventions under the scheme, 10 are now operational. Three measures were already implemented in Jan this year, namely, market access support, interest subvention for pre- and post-shipment credit, and collateral support for export credit.

"Our effort is that new products go from India, new services go across continents, new markets are captured and new exporters are promoted," commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal said at the launch of the measures, calling on industry to "embrace cross-border business".

He said the mission is designed to encourage young entrepreneurs to take Indian products and services to global markets and to make life easier for MSMEs through easier credit, compliance support and risk-sharing mechanisms. The Export Promotion Mission is focused on two pillars: financial enablers and strengthening the trade ecosystem.

# Higher forex reserves aid rupee stability

▸ Continued from page 1

Special Drawing Rights increased by $0.10 billion to $18.82 billion. India's reserve position with the International Monetary Fund rose by $0.02 billion to $4.73 billion.

The increase reflects India's external buffer amid volatile global foreign exchange markets. The reserves provide around 12 months of import cover. Higher reserves support currency stability and enable market interventions to manage volatility.

A softer US dollar contributed to valuation gains in non-dollar assets. Appreciation in currencies such as the euro and a rise in gold prices supported the increase in reserves. Reserve levels remain sensitive to global currency movements and shifts in US economic conditions.

The increase in the reserves provides RBI the policy flexibility to manage both external shocks and domestic liquidity. Reserves had dipped to below $700 billion last year after heavy intervention by the RBI to defend the rupee in the wake of volatility described by market persons as "tariff tantrums". The reserve buffer supports external debt servicing and helps maintain investor confidence in India.

## Core sectors growth slows down to 4%

**New Delhi:** Production growth of India's eight key infrastructure sectors slowed down to a two-month low of 4% in Jan, according to official data released on Friday. It was 5.1% in Jan 2025 and 4.7% in Dec 2025. Crude oil and natural gas output recorded negative growth in Jan. Production of refinery products remained flat. Production growth of coal and cement moderated to 3.1% and 10.7% during the month under review against 4.6% and 14.3%, respectively, in Jan 2025. AGENCIES

# Policy rate may not change soon: RBI

Times News Network

**Mumbai:** Minutes of the Feb 4-6 meeting of Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) indicate the panel kept policy repo rate unchanged because growth is strengthening and inflation is benign, signalling a pause in easing with scope for future cuts if data permits.

Comments of the rate-setting panel show broad agreement that the current policy rate is appropriately calibrated for an economy combining buoyant growth with benign inflation, even as several members flagged policy space to support activity if incoming data allow. Governor Sanjay Malhotra said that "given the present state of the economy and its outlook—buoyant growth and benign inflation—I feel the current policy rate is appropriate," and added that "growth prospects are looking up while inflation outlook remains broadly unchanged."

On inflation, the minutes convey strong consensus that price pressures are contained and unlikely to constrain policy in the near term. Malhotra said "inflation…is expected to remain benign," and that "excluding precious metals, inflation outlook is even lower… the underlying inflation continues to be low."

Deputy governor Poonam Gupta said "low inflation continues to be a boon," that "risk to inflation from external sources… is perceived to be limited," and that "there does not seem to be a risk of buoyant economic activity resulting in higher inflation." Executive director Indranil Bhattacharyya said the "benign inflation scenario is likely to persist for long" and that inflation, excluding precious metals, "will continue to remain benign for the foreseeable future."

Economist member Nagesh Kumar said the inflation outlook is "not showing any concerns of overheating," while economist member Ram Singh said "there are no signs of overheating in the economy" and that "underlying inflation pressures are expected to remain muted."

Growth assessments in the minutes point to improving momentum supported by domestic demand and recent trade agreements. Malhotra said "the outlook for the ensuing year is also expected to be strong," that "domestic drivers of growth continue to be robust," and that projections for real GDP growth in the first half of 2026-27 have been increased.

Kumar said "India's economic outlook has brightened considerably" and that recent developments "have lifted India's economic outlook significantly." Bhattacharyya said trade deals have "considerably improved the external outlook," with growth projections for the first two quarters of 2026-27 revised to 6.9% and 7%. Gupta said the "domestic growth-inflation mix continues to remain favourable."

### 'MOMENTUM IMPROVING'

➤ MPC kept policy repo rate unchanged because growth is strengthening and inflation is benign

➤ **On inflation,** the minutes convey strong consensus that **price pressures are contained**

➤ **Growth assessments** point to improving momentum supported by domestic demand and recent trade agreements

➤ On the **policy path,** the official **stance remains neutral and data-dependent,** and the minutes record debate on whether further easing may be warranted

# Trade deals shift sentiment, boost growth prospects: RBI

Times News Network

**Mumbai:** Investor sentiment in India improved after the completion of India-EU free trade negotiations in end-Jan and the subsequent interim trade agreement with the US, which lifted financial flows and supported markets through trade access, capital inflows, and policy stability, an RBI report said.

RBI's state of the economy report said the domestic economic landscape in Feb 2026 is witnessing a turnaround in investor sentiment. The report highlighted a pivot in financial flows. While the Indian equity market remained "subdued in Jan 2026 amid tariff uncertainties," it "rebounded in early Feb, buoyed by the announcement of the India-US interim trade deal". It said "foreign portfolio investments and the Indian rupee staged a comeback" in Feb. In the first half of the month, net FPI recorded inflows amounting to $2.3 billion, the report said. The "rupee also bounced back as net FPI flows turned positive," recovering from "its Jan lows".

The report said equity markets received a "boost through the India-EU trade deal towards the end of the month" and were further supported by "strong corporate earnings results for Q3 FY26". According to RBI, the trade agreements are expected to play a "significant role in the coming years".

### ICICI Pru Pension Funds launches health-focused savings scheme

**Mumbai:** A new health saving scheme enabled by the pension regulator allows the creation of a dedicated fund for health emergencies with the benefits of group discounts. Launched by ICICI Prudential Pension Funds under the regulatory sandbox of regulator PFRDA, the Swasthya Pension Scheme blends retirement-building with medical-liquidity. PFRDA chairman Sivasubramanian Ramann said the design enforces savings discipline while pooling benefits. It supplements health cover, not replaces it. The scheme is positioned as a retirement-plus-health plan. It has been launched with a high equity exposure to drive long-term growth. TNN

# 'Govt tracking India's exposure in West Asia'

**Mumbai:** Govt is keeping a watch on the geopolitical situation in West Asia and is taking stock of India's exposure in the region in case of conflict, said finance secretary M Nagaraju, while discussing external challenges facing banks and the economy.

He also said that govt is looking to find financial institutions exposure to the region. He believes that despite rising global uncertainty, including the possibility of conflict in the region, India's banking system and economy have remained resilient. Tensions have escalated in West Asia after the US issued a 10-day ultimatum to Iran to reach a nuclear deal. Addressing the 78th annual meeting of the Indian Banks' Association, he said the panel will focus on ensuring credit remains bank dominated and guide how banking evolves over the next 20-25 years. TNN

# Peak XV raises $1.3bn with focus on Indian startups

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**Mumbai:** Nearly three years after splitting from its Silicon Valley parent Sequoia Capital, Peak XV Partners (formerly Sequoia Capital India and Southeast Asia) has raised $1.3 billion for a clutch of funds to bet on startup founders building in India and the Asia-Pacific region.

The capital will be deployed across three funds - India seed, India venture which will largely cover early stage startups and Apac. The cheque amount for seed or very early-stage funding will be in the range of up to $5 million, while India venture fund will make investments in the range of $5-15 million, in cases going up to $20 million. The fresh capital sits alongside large portions of uninvested funds from its $5-billion growth fund raised in 2022, giving the company room to invest in startups across scale and sizes.

**Fundraise comes days after three MDs quit the co due to disagreements over economics and payouts, adding to the list of exits since the split with Sequoia 3 years ago**

"We have an existing growth fund that is about half uninvested. We are continuing to invest from that fund wherein we can fund up to $55-100 million at the top end," Shailendra Singh, MD at Peak XV Partners told **TOI** in an interview on Friday, even as he added that for growth investing, India still is one of the world's most expensive markets.

"What is happening in tech globally is that the dollars are concentrating into fewer and fewer companies and those very few companies are becoming enormous in scale. The phenomenon is also playing out in startups that are becoming big. In growth equity, we have to find the very few companies that will become very big and I think that's one way in which tech investing is changing quite a bit," Singh said.

# India bleeding talent to US: Mistral

## Co Building Commercial Tie-Ups, Setting Up Of Tech Centre A Possibility

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"We've brought many European researchers back to Europe. India has a unique opportunity to do the same. Universities here produce excellent AI and computer science talent. The focus should be on ensuring they innovate and build value here

"Running a business should not mean over-dependence on a single service provider. I've said it multiple times — Europe cannot become an AI colony of the US

— ARTHUR MENSCH | CO-FOUNDER AND CEO, MISTRAL AI

**New Delhi:** For years, Europe watched its best AI researchers migrate to the US. India has faced the same challenge — a steady bleeding of top engineering and computer science talent to Silicon Valley. Reversing this flow is central to the global AI race, says Arthur Mensch, co-founder and CEO of French startup Mistral AI. "Like Europe, India was bleeding talent to the US," Mensch said in an interview with **TOI**. "The more talent you retain and create value locally, the better."

Founded in 2023 by Mensch, Guillaume Lample and Timothée Lacroix, Mistral AI was created to challenge the opaque, closed nature of "big AI" and make frontier models more accessible through open architectures. In just three years, the company has scaled rapidly — reaching a $400 million revenue run rate and targeting over $1 billion in revenue soon. As of last year, it was valued at $14 billion.

But for Mensch, the AI race is not just commercial. It is structural — and geopolitical. With Europe heavily reliant on overseas digital infrastructure, particularly US hyperscalers, Mistral has chosen to build its own capabilities. "We don't position ourselves as a sovereign alternative. We position ourselves as a global competitor in the AI race," he said. "But tactically, to have capacity you fully control, you need infrastructure — the servers that run the technology."

About 60% of Mistral's business comes from Europe and 40% from the rest of the world. Some customers opt for its platform precisely because it can be deployed on their own infrastructure, reducing dependence on hyperscalers.

Sovereign AI, he believes, is both a strategic and political necessity. As AI begins to run large parts of the global economy, govts and defence systems cannot risk external control. For businesses, over-dependence weakens negotiating leverage and continuity.

India, with one of the world's largest developer pools, has a similar inflection point. "We've brought many European researchers back to Europe. India has a unique opportunity to do the same. Universities here produce excellent AI and computer science talent. The focus should be on ensuring they innovate and build value here," Mensch said. Mistral is currently building commercial partnerships in India, with a local technology centre a possible next step.

While rivals such as OpenAI and Anthropic explore IPO paths, Mensch said a listing is "down the road." Profitability and global scale would be prerequisites.

Mensch argues that much of enterprise AI adoption has stumbled because companies treated GenAI as a collection of tools rather than a platform shift. Early chatbot deployments focused on small productivity gains. "That doesn't change the bottomline," he said. Instead, Mistral focuses on high-ROI use cases that address major sources of business friction.

At the core of its strategy is open source. "If you have access to model parameters, you can deploy wherever you want — including local infrastructure," Mensch said. Open models also allow customisation. "Running a business should not mean over-dependence on a single service provider. I've said it multiple times — Europe cannot become an AI colony of the US."

# Micron strengthening mfg footprint in India

## Our Most Advanced Dynamic Random Access Memory Products Being Developed In India: Co

Akhil.George@timesofindia.com

**TO INVEST $2.7BN**

> Next phase of AI will be shaped as much by advances in memory as by breakthroughs in algorithms, says Sanjay Mehrotra, CEO and president of Micron Technology

> Micron is investing over $2.7 billion in an advanced packaging, assembly and test facility in Sanand, Gujarat

**New Delhi:** As artificial intelligence systems grow more powerful and data-hungry, the pressure on memory and storage technology is intensifying, best exemplified by RAM prices rising in recent months.

This is why Sanjay Mehrotra, CEO and president of Micron Technology, thinks the next phase of AI will be shaped as much by advances in memory as by breakthroughs in algorithms.

Speaking at the India AI Summit in New Delhi on Friday, Mehrotra pointed to the rising demands of real-time processing and increasingly large contextual models, which require ever greater performance from DRAM and NAND solutions.

DRAM or dynamic random access memory provides the high-speed working memory that allows AI systems and computers to process data in real time, while NAND flash is used for long-term storage, retaining vast amounts of information even when devices are powered off.

Since establishing its presence in India in 2019, Micron built large research and development centres in Bengaluru and Hyderabad, employing nearly 4,000 people. Mehrotra said that in a short span of time they now have 300 inventors based in India whose patent contributions are approaching nearly 2,000.

Calling the local team "phenomenal", Mehrotra said he was proud that some of the company's most advanced DRAM products are being designed in India in collaboration with US teams. The company is also strengthening its manufacturing footprint. Micron is investing over $2.7 billion in an advanced packaging, assembly and test facility in Sanand, Gujarat, with backing from the central and state govts. The 500,000 square foot plant will package advanced memory wafers produced worldwide.

# $2.2bn India investment on track: Kyndryl CEO

Sujit John &
Shilpa Phadnis | TNN

"A new AI Innovation Lab in Bengaluru will serve as a global centre of excellence for AI-powered consulting, co-creation and platform engineering...Kyndryl is also opening a new Cyber Defence Operations Centre to detect and contain threats before they escalate into disruptions

**Martin Schroeter** | CEO, KYNDRYL

**New Delhi:** Artificial intelligence is no longer experimental, said Martin Schroeter, CEO of Kyndryl, one of the world's largest IT infrastructure services providers. It is, he said, already reshaping how govts and enterprises operate, including in India. "It is the discussion that every customer wants us to have with them," he said, and pointed out that India is one of the $15-billion company's fastest growing markets today.

Kyndryl focuses on mission-critical IT systems, delivering uptime, resilience, security and interoperability across complex environments. India plays a central role in this strategy. Last year, the company announced a $2.2-billion investment plan for the country. Schroeter said progress is on track. A new AI Innovation Lab in Bengaluru will serve as a global centre of excellence for AI-powered consulting, co-creation and platform engineering. The company is also strengthening its collaboration with Indian ministries, including projects aimed at simplifying regulatory processes and making govt services easier to navigate.

The company has implemented similar projects elsewhere. In one Middle Eastern govt, Kyndryl helped reimagine the process for issuing business licences. Previously, securing a licence took about 30 days and involved multiple ministries and third-party data checks. Using agentic AI, the process now takes roughly 30 minutes in most cases. That's not just productivity, Schroeter noted, that's changing how a govt interacts with its citizens.

In another case, a UK-based bank sought to modernise its KYC (know your customer) onboarding process — a highly regulated, compliance-heavy workflow. Kyndryl's AI ingestion engine, Schroeter said, mapped the entire process, identifying delays across human and machine interactions. AI agents were then built to execute parts of the workflow autonomously while operating within strict governance controls. The bank expects annual savings of £15 million. But more importantly, onboarding time has dropped from 20-25 days to a matter of hours. "And they believe that over time their reputation for being easy to do business with will make them grow faster as well," he said.

# 'AI language models hitting publishers'

Vaitheeswaran.B
@timesofindia.com

**New Delhi:** The increasing use of AI language models for information seeking and agentic commerce has put the existing internet business model under pressure, as these companies are crashing publishers, content creators, and small businesses, according to **Matthew Prince**, chief executive of internet infrastructure company Cloudflare.

Explaining the problem, he said that for the past decade, individuals and creators — including researchers and small businesses — have sold subscriptions or shown ads to compensate for their work. But, now AI models scrape and regurgitate information, removing direct interaction between creators and users. "Google was a great patron, but now things have changed.

"For the last 10 years, for every two pages that Google scraped on the internet, they sent back one human visitor.

Today, for every 30 pages, they send just one. It has become 15 times harder to get traffic from a Google search. Microsoft performs more poorly — it sends 70 to one. If we look at the pure AI companies, OpenAI takes 37,000 pages from the internet for every one visitor it sends back. In Anthropic's case, it's half a million pages," Prince said.

Cloudflare handles almost 20% of internet traffic and works with all foundational model providers. "The human eyeball traffic, which is the current currency of the internet, is going away. It is never going to return in the same way. We are getting more of our answers from AI than from original sources. And so we have to figure out a new way to compensate creators," he said. Prince said the world needs to figure out a new business model for the internet and develop a new rewards system beyond traffic.

# Airtel-Zscaler's cyber research hub to focus on critical infra

Times News Network

**New Delhi:** Bharti Airtel and Zscaler on Thursday said their newly-launched AI and cyber threat research centre will focus specifically on protecting India's critical infrastructure, expanding beyond traditional enterprise cybersecurity services.

Jay Chaudhry, CEO of Zscaler, said while the company already has research teams in Chandigarh, Bengaluru, Pune and Hyderabad supporting global operations, the new centre will dedicate resources to identifying threats targeting sectors such as banking, telecom, power and other essential services.

"So far we have been helping enterprises," Chaudhry said, adding that the initiative will now focus "especially on critical infrastructure because that matters a lot."

He said the team will monitor open web and dark web activity to detect attempts aimed at infrastructure systems. Chaudhry cited phishing campaigns using fake documents, enterprise-targeted job lures and 1.2 million brute-force attempts trying to break into Indian digital entities.

The centre will deploy decoy or honeypot technologies used by enterprise customers to detect malicious activity early and generate warning signals for sensitive networks. Sunil Mittal, chairman of Bharti Airtel, described the initiative as building a collaborative "fabric" by onboarding banks, enterprises and govt agencies responsible for security. "The more and more people join in, the better and more predictive these patterns become."

### Tata Electronics ties up with Qualcomm

**New Delhi:** Tata Electronics has joined Qualcomm Technologies' global network of module manufacturing partners to produce advanced automotive module products in India, securing a key anchor customer for its upcoming $3 billion semiconductor assembly and test (OSAT) facility in Jagiroad in Assam.

Through its partnership with Qualcomm, Tata Electronics will manufacture automotive modules, such as digital cockpits, infotainment, connectivity and intelligent vehicle systems, targeting growing demand from Indian and international automakers. Randhir Thakur, chief executive and MD of Tata Electronics, said the company will leverage its integrated systems packaging (ISP) solutions to deliver high-quality, high-performance products supporting Qualcomm Technologies' global product leadership. TNN

TIMES PARENTING

Mummy, will you go bald? How this cancer survivor mom spoke to her kids about the Big C

- Priyanka Pandya Bhatt, Life Coach

How AI is becoming the third parent and why that's scary

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ET Realty

THE ECONOMIC TIMES
REAL ESTATE
CONCLAVE & AWARDS
2026

25th February, 2026
Taj Santacruz, Mumbai

India's real estate sector is at a critical inflection point, driven by strong end-user demand, rising institutional capital and a maturing regulatory framework. Residential sales remain robust amid premiumisation, while office markets continue to see demand from GCCs and technology sectors.

At the same time, evolving affordability, new funding structures and greater oversight are reshaping project financing and delivery.

The Economic Times Real Estate Conclave & Awards 2026 will bring together policymakers, developers, investors and industry leaders to examine these shifts and recognise excellence across India's real estate ecosystem. The presence of **NAREDCO National, CREDAI-MCHI, NAREDCO Maharashtra, GBCI** and the **Indian REITs Association** as partners adds further credibility to the platform.

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A TIMES INTERNET INITIATIVE

**सी.एस.आई.आर. – भारतीय रासायनिक जीवविज्ञान संस्थान**
**CSIR- INDIAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL BIOLOGY**
(Council of Scientific & Industrial Research)
4, Raja S. C. Mullick Road, Jadavpur, Kolkata-700 032 (w.b.) India

**Advt. No. : R&C/Administrative Consultant/2026**

**Date of Advertisement : 18.02.206**

**Last date of submission of application : 17.03.2026**

CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Biology, Kolkata a premier Institute under the aegis of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), is inviting applications for **engagement of one Administrative Consultant from retired CSIR / Central Autonomous Body / Central Government employees** on contractual basis. For detailed advertisement, terms & conditions and application form the applicant may visit the Institute website **www.iicb.res.in** → 'Ongoing Recruitment'.

**Controller of Administration**

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**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNICAL TEACHERS TRAINING AND RESEARCH**
Institution Deemed to be University under Distinct Category
A Centrally Funded Technical Institute, Ministry of Education, Government of India, Taramani, Chennai - 600 113.
Estd 1964

Advt. No [illegible]

Applications are invited for the following Faculty Positions

| Name of the Post | No. of Post(s) | Pay details |
|---|---|---|
| Professor | [illegible] | Pay Level - [illegible] |
| Associate Professor | [illegible] | Pay Level - [illegible] |

**For Details, Visit the Institute website: https://www.nitttrc.ac.in**

Director

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**A-12026/2/2023-E-IV**
**Government of India**
**Ministry of Jal Shakti**
**Department of Water Resources,**
**River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation**

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**VACANCY NOTICE**

**EXTENSION OF LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION**

The vacancy notice published in the Employment News edition dated 27 December 2025 - 2 January 2026 for filling the following post in the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) on a deputation basis (including short term contract) by this office is hereby revised. **The last date for submission of duly filled applications, which was 09.02.2026, has been further extended by three weeks from the date of publication of this vacancy notice in the Employment News.**

| S. No. | Name of the post (s) | No. of the post (s) | Pay Matrix As per 7th CPC | Place of posting |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Chairman, NDSA | 01 | Level-15 (Rs.182200-224100/-) | HQs New Delhi |

2. All other terms and conditions of the previous vacancy notice shall remain unchanged. The interested candidates who have not yet applied may submit their applications as per the procedure mentioned in the detailed vacancy notice available on the official website: jalshakti-dowr.gov.in, dopt.gov.in, and ndsa.mowr.gov.in.

(Narayanan Bhattadiri K.P.)
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India
Tele. No.: 011-23716252
Email: use4-mowr@nic.in

CBC 45101/11/0008/2526

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**RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LIMITED**
CIN:- [illegible] (A Govt. of Rajasthan Undertaking)
Suratgarh Super Thermal Power Station, Suratgarh-335805

**E-Tender Notice**

E-tenders are invited for TN-3203(RVU2526W0B02338) Fabrication, Repairing of ball tube mill with associated equipments and Repair/Reconditioning of coal nozzle tips and coal nozzles & their hard facing of UNIT # 1 TO 6, Stage-I, II, III & IV and TN-3204(RVU2526WLOB02341) Annual Comprehensive O&M Contract of entire Ash handling system including silos and ESP of Unit # 1 to 6 (6X250 MW), STPS, RVUN, Suratgarh. Tender details are available on websites http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in (for e-tender), www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvunl & www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in.

[illegible] RVUN/PR-4313 **Addl. Chief Engineer (O&M)**

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CFTI

**Online Short-term Capsule Training Programme**

| Capsule Programme | Duration | Fees |
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| Internal Quality Audit [illegible] | [illegible] | 4,130/- |
| Import Export Policy & Procedure [illegible] | [illegible] | 4,720/- |
| Mastering OverEPT for Enhanced Work Productivity | [illegible] | 3,770/- |

E-CERTIFICATE WILL BE AWARDED

For More Details : Please Contact 7017204878, 9719848958

CFTI AGRA

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**पूर्वोत्तर आयुर्वेद एवं होम्योपैथी संस्थान**
**NORTH EASTERN INSTITUTE OF AYURVEDA & HOMOEOPATHY**
(An Autonomous Institute under the Ministry of Ayush, Govt. of India)
Mawdiangdiang, Shillong, Meghalaya - 793018

Advt. No. EST.13/2/2025-Administration Division/H-3108

**शिलांग स्थित एनईआईएएच में निदेशक पद के लिए विज्ञापन।**

**Advertisement for the post of Director, NEIAH, Shillong - reg.**

**Ref. No. L.12019/6/2025-AS (Ministry of Ayush)**
**dated 02, February, 2026**

भारत सरकार के आयुष मंत्रालय के अधीन एक स्वायत्त निकाय, पूर्वोत्तर आयुर्वेद एवं होम्योपैथी संस्थान (NEIAH), शिलांग में निदेशक के पद को भरने के लिए पात्र उम्मीदवारों से दो प्रतियों में आवेदन आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं। यह पद प्रतिनियुक्ति (अनुबंध सहित) आधार पर 5 वर्ष की अवधि के लिए या सेवानिवृत्ति की तिथि तक या सरकार द्वारा निर्धारित तिथि तक, जो भी पहले हो, भरा जाएगा। पद के लिए पात्रता शर्तें और निर्धारित आवेदन प्रारूप से संबंधित विवरण मंत्रालय की वेबसाइट www.ayush.gov.in और पूर्वोत्तर आयुर्वेद एवं होम्योपैथी संस्थान की वेबसाइट www.neiah.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।

Applications are invited, in duplicate, from eligible candidates for filling up the post of Director, North Eastern Institute of Ayurveda and Homoeopathy (NEIAH), Shillong, an autonomous body under the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India to be filled-up on deputation including contract basis for a tenure of 5 years or till the date of retirement or as decided by the Government, whichever is the earliest. The details regarding eligibility conditions for the post and prescribed application format, are available in the website of Ministry **www.ayush.gov.in** and North Eastern Institute of Ayurveda and Homoeopathy **www.neiah.nic.in**.

निर्धारित प्रारूप में भरा हुआ और सभी प्रकार से पूर्ण आवेदन पत्र उचित माध्यम से श्री अब्दुल सादिक खान, अवर सचिव (आयुर्वेद), आयुष मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, आयुष भवन, बी-ब्लॉक, जीपीओ कॉम्प्लेक्स, आईएनए, नई दिल्ली-110023 को रोजगार समाचार में इस पद के विज्ञापन के प्रकाशन की तिथि से 45 दिनों के भीतर पहुंच जाना चाहिए।

The application in the prescribed proforma complete in all respect should reach through proper channel to Shri Abdul Sadiq Khan, Under Secretary (Ayurveda), Ministry of Ayush, Govt. of India, Ayush Bhawan, B-Block, GPO complex, INA, New Delhi-110023 within 45 days from the date of publication of the Advertisement for this post in Employment News/Rozgar Samachar.

Sd/-
उप-निदेशक (प्रशा.) / Deputy Director (Admn.)
पू.आ.हो.सं. शिलांग / NEIAH, Shillong

CBC 17217/12/0006/2526

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**KARNATAKA CHITRAKALA PARISHATH**
**COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS**
Dr. Vishnuvardhan Road, Srinivasapura
Banashankari 6th Stage, Bangalore - 560 060.

CKP/CFA/E-65/2025-26 **EMPLOYMENT (TEMPORARY)** Dt: 21-02-2026

APPLICATIONS are invited for the post of **ASSISTANT PROFESSORS (Adhoc)**

• PAINTING 3 • SCULPTURE 3 • ART HISTORY 1

**Qualification:** Master Degree in relevant discipline with min 55% marks from a recognized University. Candidates should have good communication skills. Candidates with NET/SLET/Ph.D shall be given preference.
Minimum 3 years teaching experience in Fine Arts College / University or 5 years work experience in the relevant professional field.

**Candidates who have applied & appeared for interview earlier need not apply.**

**MANAGER - 1**

**Qualification:** Bachelor Degree from any recognized University with minimum 8 years administrative experience in a College / University.

**LIBRARIAN - 1**

**Qualification:** M. Lib
Minimum 2 years of relevant library experience.

**SUPERINTENDENT - 1**

**Qualification:** Bachelor Degree in any discipline from a recognized University with minimum 5 years of relevant administrative experience including File Management in a college / university.

**Tenure:** Three years for all the above mentioned positions.

**Salary:** Attractive and shall be commensurate with experience.

This is purely a temporary appointment and candidates appointed through this advertisement shall not seek for absorption or request for permanent employment.

Interested candidates should submit their application along with a photo, detailed resume, copy of their portfolio and self-attested marks cards & certificates / work experience letters to **office@kcpcfa.art** or by post /in person to COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS, Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Dr. Vishnuvardhan Road, Srinivasapura, Banashankari 6th Stage, Bangalore - 560 060 within 7 days from the advertisement date.

Sd/- General Secretary

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**Government of Uttarakhand, Department of Higher Education**
No. 370708/XXIV-C-1/2026-E-33407/12/01/2012

Dehradun **Corrigendum** Dated 19 February, 2026

It is hereby informed that by advertisement number 370702/XXIV-C-1/2026 E-33407/12(01)2012 dated February 13, 2026, partial amendment is made in the post of Vice Chancellor at Sri Dev Suman University, Badshahithaul, Tehri Garhwal release as follows:-

1. **Serial No. 4:-** The Applicant/candidate who fulfil the qualification should apply online on the Samarth portal **URL https://vcrec.samarth.ac.in/** from the date of issue of advertisement till 6:00 PM on date 14.03.2026, attaching a copy along with all the documents to the Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Government of Uttarakhand, Office Room No. 13, Ist Floor, Subhash Chandra Bose Bhawan, Secretariat Complex, 04 Subhash Road, Dehradun through Speed post/Registered post. Applications received after the said period will not be considered.
2. **Serial No. 5:-** In case of any difficulty in applying online, applicant can contact by e-mail id **vcselectionhighereducation@gmail.com**
3. **Serial No. 6:-** The point mentioned in number-5 of the previous advertisement dated 13.02.2026 should be read as point number 06.

Apart from the above amendments, the conditions of advertisement number 370702/XXIV-C-1/2026 E-33407/12(01)2012 dated February 13, 2026 will remain the same.

**Dr. Ranjit Kumar Sinha, Secretary**
**Higher Education Department, Govt. of Uttarakhand**

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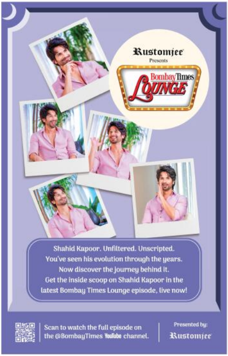


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# THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY

**(UNDER KPIDFE - IMA & OTHER SCAM)**
3rd Floor, Podium Block, V.V Tower, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001

## NOTICE/INVITATION FOR E-AUCTION FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Pursuant to attachment of immovable properties by the Government under the provisions of the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments Act, 2004 (KPIDFE Act) and pursuant to the absolute attachment order by the Hon'ble Special Court the Special Officer & Competent Authority (under KPIDFE-IMA and other Scam), is issuing notice for e-auction of the immovable property through e-auction on 'as is where is and whatever there is basis'.
The intending bidders will be required to furnish Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (as mentioned against each auction in the e-portal provided by the Service Provider/Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only).

**SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**
**Properties are free of all encumbrances and are in the name of Competent Authority appointed by Government and confirmed by the Special Court under KPIDFE Act, 2004.**

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Sy. No 33,35/3, 35/4 and 174 of Village and Sy.No.224, 184/5 and 189 of Bidaregere Village, Kasaba Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District Together measuring 12-24.08 Acres (Converted by DC Bangalore urban Vide O.M. No. ALN (A&K) sr 118/2010-11 Dt: 23-2-2011, 44/2011-12 Dt:30/9/2011, 47,48/2011-12 dt: 30/9/2011 and O.M 163/2012-13 Dt:27/11/2012 under the Administrative Jurisdiction of Karpoor Grampanchayath, kasaba hobli, Anekal Taluk , Bangalore Rural District bounded on: East by: Sy.No.190 of Bidaregere village & Sy.no.32 of Karpoor village, West by: Road, North by: Sy. No. 28 and 29 of Karpoor village , South by: Sy.no. 183, 184,186,187,188,192 and 193 of bidargere village . **Google Map** : https://maps.app.goo.gl/wcgnQ8KeoaZ3euUS6 Latitude and Longitude: 12.719274, 77.721954 08 flats (GREEN APARTMENTS), which is constructed on above property , for more details regarding Minimum bid Price, EMD and other details please visit Karnataka Public Procurement Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in & https://sploca.org/)

| Date of Inspection & time | Date of Pre-bid meeting & time and Place | Last Date of Submission of Bids & EMD submission | Date & Time of E Auction |
|---|---|---|---|
| 23rd February 2026<br>10:00 am to 01:00 pm | 23rd February 2026<br>3 pm to 4 pm | 27th February 2026<br>until 5pm | 02nd March 2026<br>11 am to 1 pm |

For Registration & Online Auction, you can login to: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** (Helpdesk No: 080-46010000, 080-68948777) The interested bidders who require auction related information can contact **Assistant Commissioner, Office of the Special Officer & Competent Authority,** 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visveswaraiah Towers, Dr.Ambedkar Veedi, Bengaluru-560001, e-mail ID: **splocaeauction@gmail.com** or Contact Mob. No 9945515174

**Sd/-**
**Special Officer & Competent Authority**
**(Under KPIDFE –IMA & Other Scam) Bengaluru.**

**Date: 19.02.2026**
**Place: Bengaluru**
DIPR/CP/5780/ZEN/2025-26

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# THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY,

**(UNDER KPIDFE - IMA & OTHER SCAM)**
3rd Floor, Podium Block, V.V Tower, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001
Phone No.080 29565353/29604556 Email: splocaima21@gmail.com

**No.SPLOCA/ADM/EST/19/2025-26** **Date 19.02.2026**

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**WHISTLE BLOWER POLICY FOR PROVIDING INFORMATION PERTAINING TO FINANCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS AND CLAIMING REWARD**

Public in general and all concerned are hereby informed that the Government in exercise of its power under Section 21A of the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments Act, 2004, has promulgated the "Incentivization for Whistleblowers and informants providing original information leading to attachment of assets of Financial Establishments Scheme, 2025"

Purpose: To encourage whistleblowers and informants to provide original, credible, and actionable information that leads to identification, attachment, and recovery of assets of defaulting Financial Establishments (FEs) and their colluders, by granting ex-gratia rewards.

Who Can Claim Reward : (1) Whistleblower: Person providing information in public interest about illegal activities of an FE (not complicit);(2) Informant: Person giving original information leading to tracing, attachment, and recovery of FE assets;

Who Is Not Eligible:- Government servants providing information obtained during official duty; Persons legally bound to disclose such information; Persons connected to authorities under the Act through employment/contract/relationship; Where information was already available from another source.

Nature of Information Required:- Information must be unknown to authorities; Relate directly to assets, money trail, benami transactions, malafide transfers, etc; Lead to absolute attachment and actual recovery; Be supported by documents and ownership proof. Must provide original, document-supported, non-hearsay, truthful information; Must not be complicit in the fraud.

Procedure to Submit Information: Submit in Form-I with declaration in Form-II in sealed cover; Information without reward claim may be emailed to a notified email ID; splocaima-21@ka.gov.in Informant receives a secret Informant Code; Informant may be called to verify identity and assist further.

Undertaking by Informant:- Informant must declare no automatic right to reward; Information is true and original; Will assist authorities if required; Aware of criminal liability for false/malicious information (BNS, 2023); Disclosure is for public benefit, not private gain.

Reward Structure:- For Whistleblowers : Single stage reward, Up to ₹2,00,000.
For Informants: Two stages:

| Stage | Basis | Limit |
|---|---|---|
| Interim | After attachment & reserve price fixation | 2% of reserve price or ₹2,00,000 (whichever less) |
| Final | After actual sale & recovery | 5% of recovered dues or ₹5,00,000 (whichever less) or higher if approved |

When Reward Is Considered:- Interim: After asset found attachable (considering encumbrances); Final: After actual realization of sale proceeds.

Decision Authority:- Informant Reward Committee. Final sanctioning authority, Reward is purely discretionary and ex-gratia. No legal claim lies.

Factors for Deciding Reward Amount:-Accuracy and originality of information; Extent of assistance and risk taken by informant; Value realized due to the information; Effort required to utilize the information.

Confidentiality & Protection:- Identity and information kept strictly confidential; Government may provide protection if threat/harassment exists.

Forms:- Form-I: Informant details, FE details, asset details (movable/immovable), documents, bank details; Form-II: Legal declaration and undertakings by informant.

For detailed information interested persons may refer to Incentivization for Whistleblowers and informants providing original information leading to attachment of assets of Financial Establishments Scheme, 2025 available on official web site of SPLOCA: https://sploca.org.

Sd/-
**Special Officer & Competent Authority, (IMA & Other KPID Case)**

DIPR/CP/5763/Zas/2025-26

# No stiff upper lip as Trott departs as Afghan coach

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Jonathan Trott had clearly rehearsed how not to get upset. When Afghanistan's outgoing coach walked in for his final post-match press conference here on Thursday, that was perhaps the 'note to self' jotted in the yellow notebook he clutched in his hand.

The facade didn't last long. The emotion in the press room was palpable and Trott didn't quite follow the script, and understandably so.

Since taking charge in 2022, Trott has taken Afghanistan's cricket to new heights, helping the side stand toe-to-toe with more established teams, guiding them to a T20 World Cup semifinal in the last edition and scripting many memorable upsets.

TROTT

The job, he reminded everyone, was never designed with his name on it. It had originally been meant for Graham Thorpe, but when that didn't materialise, Trott grabbed it "with both hands". First, the Englishman, pausing occasionally as his voice dipped, thanked the team for the opportunity and wished Afghan cricket the best for the future.

"It's not my decision (to terminate the contract), so that's all I'll leave it at, really. Maybe the time's right, maybe it's not. I'm here by chance, but I gave it my all. I hope the players can see the love I have for the game and the care that I have for them as players and as people. The great joy for me in this job has been seeing the players develop off the field as well — lives changing, not just on it, but in the way they can alter their families' fortunes and trajectory. Forget the cricketing side; watching boys I took over grow into young men has been truly worthwhile," said Trott, who was almost welling up.

And then, while answering a question on his role in Afghan cricket's rise, Trott swallowed the lump in his throat and stifled tears. "I could sit here and tell you so many stories of things that I've seen with my own eyes... the talent."

Then, pausing and fighting back tears, he said, "I said I didn't want to get upset. I just remember my first trip when we were in Ireland, and I saw things that made me realise how talented and focused these boys are. I felt, let's try and build on what we've got as natural, raw talent and see how far we can take it.

"I remember how chaotic that first tour was. To see where we are now is like chalk and cheese. The players deserve so much credit because they operate at such a high level compared to what they're afforded in other countries. They don't have the day-to-day coaching, academies, facilities or schooling that young players elsewhere get. The amount of coaching I've had, compared to the coaching that these guys are now operating at, at international level, is chalk and cheese. So, I take my hat off to every single one of them. I'll be watching from afar and I'll always be very fond and want the guys to do well," Trott said.

Trott might have hoped for a different climax, but this World Cup brought heartbreak for the 44-year-old. Afghanistan lost to South Africa in a double Super Over and then missed out on reaching the Super 8 stage in Group D.

# FAMILIAR FOES LOCK HORNS AGAIN

## New Zealand Admit Tariq's Spin A Factor But Take Comfort In Playing Pak Often

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Now it's a battle of the elites. The margin for error will be very thin as the Super 8 stage begins with Pakistan taking on an extremely competitive New Zealand at the Premadasa in Colombo. Both teams know that a loss in this game will make things significantly difficult for them going forward. As per the weather report, there is a bit of rain around, even though none of the games in Colombo have been affected yet.

While Pakistan have been here since the start of this edition, playing on the slower spin-friendly pitches, this will be their first outing in these conditions for the Black Caps. To start then, in this battle of equals, Pakistan are slightly ahead given the depth of the spin attack that they possess.

Mystery spinner Usman Tariq has been excellent so far, with none of the teams able to have a go at him. For New Zealand, the onus will be on the likes of middle-order batters Glenn Phillips, Mark Chapman and Daryl Mitchell to deal with the threat.

Chapman revealed that they are taking the Tariq factor into consideration. "Tariq has a pretty unique action with the way he stops at the crease, so that's something to factor in. But Pakistan have a number of really good spinners in their side. Each of them poses his own threat," Chapman said.

But the left-hander also mentioned a familiarity factor that New Zealand enjoy with Pakistan. The two teams have met each other quite often in T20Is — the last series being hosted by the Kiwis in 2024-25, which they won 4-1.

"Pakistan is one of the teams that we've played probably the most frequently over the last few years. So, we're well aware of what they're going to bring," Chapman said.

Pakistan had a good outing in their last game against Namibia at the SSC and it's unlikely they are going to make significant changes to the playing XI. Paceman Shaheen Shah Afridi and leggie Abrar Ahmed haven't been in the best of form and they were left out of the game against Namibia. To play any of them, Pakistan will have to drop a batter, which they may well be reluctant to do. The spin duties will be shared by Tariq, Saim Ayub, Mohammed Nawaz and Shadab Khan while left-armer Salman Mirza is likely to be the lone pacer.

For New Zealand, it's pretty simple. They will look to have their captain Mitchell Santner back, who missed their last game against Canada due to an illness. His style of bowling is perfect for Sri Lanka conditions and he should be a handful for the Pakistan batters.

"Santner looks pretty sprightly, he's pretty excited to get back," Chapman said, adding that paceman Lockie Ferguson, who had gone home following the birth of his first child, will be back late before the game. "Lockie is landing potentially tonight. So we'll just see how he pulls up from the flight," Chapman said.

**FACE-OFF**

PAK vs NZ

TV TIME: 7PM
STAR SPORTS, JIOHOTSTAR

**HEAD TO HEAD**

| PAK | NZ |
|---|---|
| 24 | 23 |

**LAST FIVE MATCHES**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| PAK | W | L | W | W | W |
| NZ | W | L | W | W | L |

**VENUE:** COLOMBO

WEATHER: 24°C

ODDS

| PAK | NZ |
|---|---|
| 5/4 | 6/10 |

**5** Matches out of 7 won by Pakistan against New Zealand in T20 World Cups.

**880** Runs at an average of 41.90 in 24 innings scored by Babar Azam — the most by a batter in T20Is vs New Zealand.

—Stats: Rajesh Kumar

## Ousted from WC, Marsh's men beat Oman by 9 wkts

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Australia delivered a clinical bowling performance to dismantle Oman for 104 in 16.2 overs in Pallekele on Friday, before captain Mitchell Marsh (64* off 33 balls; 7x4, 4x6) and Travis Head (32 off 19 balls; 6x4) chased down the target with blistering authority, sealing the win in just 9.4 overs. In doing so, they posted the joint-fastest 100-plus run chase in T20 World Cups.

The emphatic nine-wicket triumph sees Australia bow out of this showpiece tournament on a commanding note, a performance that arrived frustratingly late. The tone was set early by pacer Xavier Bartlett, who struck with his very first delivery to castle Aamir Kaleem. It sparked a remarkable sequence, with the first four Oman wickets were all bowled, underlining Australia's precision and discipline.

**SCORES: Australia 108/1 in 9.4 overs** (Marsh 64*, Head 32) beat **Oman 104 in 16.2 overs** (Wasim 32, Zampa 4-21, Maxwell 2-13, Bartlett 2-27) by 9 wickets.

# STAR TURNS

## Impressive Individual Performances Lit Up The Group Stage Of The T20 World Cup. Here Are TOI's Picks...

**Ishan Kishan**
India vs Pakistan; 77 off 40 balls (10x4, 3x6)
On a slow, spin-friendly surface at the Premadasa Stadium in Colombo, where every batter struggled, Ishan Kishan proved to be the exception. He pulled, cut, swept, reverse swept and drove the Pakistani bowlers with elan, launching his onslaught against the pace of Shaheen Afridi but then going on to dismantle the spinners as well. The rest of the batters managed just 95 in India's total of 175/7, which proved well beyond Pakistan's reach.

**Blessing Muzarabani**
Zimbabwe vs Australia: 4-0-17-4
The 6-ft-8 inch pacer showed that he had more to him than his tall frame by producing his career-best T20I figures to script the biggest upset of the group stage. A target of 170 didn't look too much to chase for the Aussies but the 29-year-old's double blow in the Powerplay, removing Josh Inglis and Cameroon Green, and then coming back at the death to remove Matt Renshaw (65) and Adam Zampa sealed the deal for Zimbabwe.

**Pathum Nissanka**
Sri Lanka vs Aus: 100 off 52 balls (10x4, 5x6)
The 27-year-old played the innings of a lifetime to knock Australia out. The target of 182 wasn't easy but Nissanka's strokeplay ensured the hosts got over the line with two overs to spare. Relying on immaculate timing, he walked across the line and played some delightful pick-up shots over the square-leg fence, followed by some exquisite pulls and drives, to seal Sri Lanka's Super 8 berth.

**Romario Shepherd**
West Indies vs Scotland: 3-0-20-5
The West Indies looked set for victory when skipper Shai Hope handed the ball to Romario Shepherd in the 16th over with Scotland needing 51 runs from 24 balls. The pacer from Guyana obliged by claiming four wickets from five balls, including a hat-trick, to hasten Scotland's end.

**Yuvraj Samra**
Canada vs New Zealand: 110 off 65 balls (11x4, 6x6)
This one didn't come in a winning cause but Samra produced an innings of great courage for the Canadians. Born in Brampton, Ontario, the teenager became the youngest centurion in a T20 World Cup at 19 years and 141 days. He also registered the best score by a player from an Associate nation against an ICC Full Member in the T20 World Cup.

—Text: Prasanth Menon

# How Zimbabwe wrote their redemption song

## After Missing Last Two Global Events, Raza's Side Has Turned Tough Lessons Into Hard Results

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For Zimbabwe cricket, not qualifying for the 2023 ODI World Cup and the 2024 T20 World Cup was a sobering setback. When Zimbabwe were told they would have to begin the next qualifying cycle at the bottom rung, in the sub-regional qualifier B in Kenya, captain Sikandar Raza confronted the moment head-on.

"Either we feel sorry for ourselves or accept the reality that we are in this mess because of ourselves. And only we can get ourselves out of it," he recalled after the rain-wrecked no-result against Ireland in the World Cup.

The squad chose ownership over excuses. They mapped out a long-term plan, braced for criticism and committed to building a stronger cricketing culture. That work is now showing under lights and under pressure on the T20 World Cup stage. Zimbabwe are unbeaten, having beaten Oman, stunned former champions Australia and then outlasted co-hosts Sri Lanka to surge into the Super 8s as Group B toppers.

The statement win came first: Zimbabwe posted 169/2 against Australia and then bowled them out for 146, winning by 23 runs. A week later, they chased down 179 against Sri Lanka, finishing at 182/4 with three balls to spare.

At the heart of this transformation is head coach Justin Sammons. Quiet and unassuming, he has focused on clarity — sharper roles, braver selections, and a belief that Zimbabwe can dictate terms, not merely hang on.

Zimbabwe's rise has been powered by youth and experience in equal measure. Twenty-two-year-old opener Brian Bennett has been the breakout. He has stayed unbeaten in the tournament, with scores of 48* (vs Oman), 64* (vs Australia) and 63* (vs Sri Lanka), giving Zimbabwe calm starts and a steady base.

Bennett's promise has travelled quickly. From Ruwa, near Harare, he worked his way through the system with the kind of single-mindedness that shows up in his batting: clear options, minimal fuss. Last year, he smashed Zimbabwe's fastest Test century — a 97-ball hundred — against England at Trent Bridge.

Bowling has been just as decisive. Blessing Muzarabani, the towering pacer, has led the fast-bowling surge with spells that have tilted games, including 3/16 against Oman and a career-best 4/17 against Australia. And 39-year-old leg-spinner Graeme Cremer has added control and craft in the middle overs, completing a remarkable return after years away from international cricket.

Zimbabwe's challenges get steeper now. The Super 8s places them alongside India, West Indies and South Africa. But Raza is looking at it the only way this team seems to know: one game at a time. "We take one game at a time. Everybody loves an underdog story," he had said after the Sri Lanka win.

"One of the goals we set out for was to bring more respect for our country. To see people now taking notice of Zimbabwe and speaking about us in a respectful manner is humbling. Hopefully, we can keep writing our own history so that when people talk about Zimbabwe cricket, they show a bit more respect," Raza said.

Zimbabwe players celebrate an Australian wicket in Colombo

> **One of the goals we set out for was to bring more respect for our country. To see people now taking notice of Zimbabwe and speaking about us in a respectful manner is humbling."**
> — ZIMBABWE SKIPPER **Sikandar Raza** AFTER THE WIN OVER SRI LANKA

## SNAP SHOTS

### Leclerc fastest in testing

Formula One wrapped up pre-season testing in Bahrain on Friday with Charles Leclerc fastest for Ferrari and Racing Bulls rookie Arvid Lindblad pounding out a single-day record of 165 laps. Leclerc's best time of one minute 31.992 seconds was 0.879 quicker than McLaren's reigning champion Lando Norris, second on the timesheets, and fastest of the three-day second test. Four-times world champion Max Verstappen was third.

**Pistons dominate Knicks:** Cade Cunningham totaled 42 points, 13 assists and eight rebounds as the Detroit Pistons pulled away in the second half and completed a season sweep of the host New York Knicks with a 126-111 victory on Thursday. Detroit won the three meetings by a combined 84 points, improving its regular-season winning streak vs New York to six games. The Knicks had won the previous 16 matchups between the teams. **Results:** Pistons 126 bt Knicks 111, Hawks 117 bt 76ers 107, Cavaliers 113 bt Nets 94, Rockets 106 bt Hornets 100, Spurs 121 bt Suns 94, Wizards 117 bt Pacers 105, Raptors 120 bt Bulls 106.

**Stride FC prevail:** Imran Khan scored a double as Stride FC claimed a 4-2 win over RWF FC in the BDFA 'A' division league football championship in Bengaluru on Friday. Yohan Thomas Jacob and Ginneithang Gangte chipped in with a goal each. **Results: 'A' Div:** Stride FC 4 (Imran Khan 30, 39, Yohan Thomas Jacob 44, Ginneithang Gangte 68) bt RWF FC 2 (Rajesh 5 58, Roopesh C 82); Income Tax FC 1 (Akshay K 5) [illegible] Sniper FC 0. **'B' Div:** Group A: ADE FC 6 (Vishnu Krishna PA 10, 34, 71, [illegible] 45, Sanju R 51, Ashish [illegible] 83) bt Bangalore Warriors FC 4 ([illegible] 39, Muhammed Kamal [illegible] 44-og, Silu [illegible] 54, G Aleisiue Wesley 79); Mysore Vijayanagar FC 3 ([illegible] 9, Shivan Kumar 13, C [illegible] 53) bt South India FC 0.

[illegible imprint text]

# Police constable among 14 facing ban for fixing

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**Panaji:** Fourteen players and officials, which includes a police constable Mouzzan Shaikh attached with the Goa Police football team, are on the brink of facing suspensions and even life bans for their alleged roles in match-fixing in Goa Professional League.

In his preliminary report, Goa Football Association's integrity officer and retired deputy superintendent of police Sandesh Chodankar has said "there is ample evidence of match-fixing". "All 14 players/officials have violated multiple provisions of the GFA Ethics Code 2021," Chodankar said in the 288-page chargesheet, which was handed over to the players on Friday, most of whom are from Chapora. They've been given 10 days to reply to the charges.

"The players knowingly and deliberately engaged themselves in match-fixing and underperforming to influence result," Chodankar said in his investigation report, which was conducted after the football club, Chapora Yuvak Sangh, filed a complaint with the GFA in Oct. Chapora president Pravin Dabholkar had filed a complaint that nine of the club's players — Akash Kadnekar, Krishnanath Shirodkar, Sachidanand Satelkar, Bhaskar Jalmi, Aman Govekar, Chaitan Dabholkar, Rohan Pednekar, Vinayak Rane and Akash Sanadi — were involved in "match-fixing for monetary benefits". All of them had met a suspected match fixer— only identified as 'masked man' Sandy, arriving in a tinted car — a day before their Goa Professional League (GPL) clash against Clube de Salgaocar, where they were offered money to lose the game by three goals.

GOA PRO LEAGUE

Chapora lost 2-1. Goalkeeper Bhaskar Jalmi's role in conceding two goals in the first half raised eyebrows and forced coach Anthony Levino Pereira to substitute him at half time.

According to official statements seen by TOI, Jalmi tackled the opponent inside the danger zone, which could have resulted in a penalty but eventually ended with a goal-line clearance, while another player "deliberately scored an own goal" only for the referee to award an offside. "I reviewed all matches after the disclosure of match-fixing incident by watching the video recording and noticed that the players committed deliberate acts like goalkeeper conceding easy goals, defenders not playing as per plan and strikers, when they get a chance, not converting the opportunity into goals," coach Pereira, a former India defender, said in his voluntary statement. "I expected the team to win against Vasco, but players underperformed (in 1-0 loss). Against Churchill Brothers, we conceded three goals within the first 15-20 minutes and drew 2-2 against Bidesh XI due to under performance of the goalkeeper."

The integrity officer made a special mention of Shaikh and asked GFA to inform Goa Police "regarding the conduct of police constable Mouzzan Shaikh about his role in match-fixing, so that discipline of the police force is maintained". "In order to find out the consideration paid for fixing the match, this can only be investigated by lodging an FIR with police who can check their financial dealings. The integrity officer cannot investigate certain incidents like the identity of the alleged masked man due to non-cooperation of the players involved, despite having the mobile number of the masked man."

## Coach Pereira makes perfect start

Vitor Pereira made a dream start as Nottingham Forest boss with a 3-0 win over Fenerbahce in the first leg of the Europa League playoffs, while Stuttgart thrashed Celtic 4-1 to ruin Martin O'Neill's 1,000th match as a manager on Thursday.

Pereira became Forest's fourth boss this season after agreeing an 18-month deal to replace the sacked Sean Dyche on Sunday. He made an instant impact as the Premier League strugglers powered to an impressive victory in Istanbul thanks to goals from Murillo, Igor Jesus and Morgan Gibbs-White. **Select results (playoffs, first leg):** Fenerbahce (Tur) 0 lost to Nottingham Forest 3 (Murillo 21, Igor Jesus 43, Gibbs-White 50); Dinamo Zagreb 1 (Bakrar 4) lost to Genk 3 ([illegible]); [illegible] Celta Vigo 2 ([illegible]); [illegible] Celtic 1 ([illegible]) lost to Stuttgart 4 ([illegible]); Lille 0 lost to Red Star Belgrade 1 (Tiote Uchenna 45+2). AFP

## Mathikere win title

**Bengaluru:** Mathikere Cricket Club handed National Cricketers a two-wicket defeat to emerge champions of the KSCA Group I-V Division tournament at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium here recently.

Asked to bat, Sharath KM's 79-ball 62 took National Cricketers to 196/8. For Mathikere, MS Bhandage, Rahul Shetty and Chandru Aiyanna picked up two wickets each. In reply, Mathikere chased down the target in 39.1 overs for the loss of eight wickets. After a top-order collapse, Sanjay SS (70) and Rahul Shetty (68 n.o) struck crucial half-centuries to power Mathikere.

**Brief scores: National Cricketers: 196/8 in 50 overs** (Sharath KM 62, Mahesh Reddy 34, MS Bhandage 2-36, Rahul Shetty 2-37, Chandru Aiyanna 2-44) lost to **Mathikere CC: 199/8 in 39.1 overs** (Sanjay SS 70, Rahul Menon 30, Rahul Shetty 68 n.o; Sandilkumar 3-28, Prasanna Pattalkumar 4-40). TNN

# Goa score two goals, spurn many chances

Times News Network

**Kolkata:** FC Goa squandered a plethora of opportunities before settling for a 2-0 victory against Mohammedan Sporting at the Kishore Bharati Stadium on Friday.

Spanish defender Pol Moreno gave his new team a bright start in the fourth minute. Udanta Singh then earned a penalty and Dejan Drazic converted it with consummate ease in the 32nd minute to seal the victory for Manolo Marquez's side, which was held 1-1 by Inter Kashi in the opening match.

Hit by a transfer ban and forced to play with an all-Indian side — Mehrajuddin Wadoo's Mohammedan SC were given another painful reminder of the challenge on their hands. Against Jamshedpur FC, they were undone by Madih Talal's ninth-minute goal. And against FC Goa's pacy attackers, they found themselves trailing again soon after the kick-off.

INDIAN SUPER LEAGUE

An unchallenged Moreno — who joined Goa from Racing de Santander at the start of the season — rose to meet Drazic's corner-kick with a thumping header, giving MSC goalkeeper Subhajit Bhattacharjee no chance to react. Brison soon came calling and saw his header hit the post before Udanta entered the box with pace and potency and drew a foul from the onrushing goalkeeper, earning a penalty. Drazic — who scored the equaliser against Inter Kashi with a penalty — had again no difficulty from the spot, wrong-footing Subhajit with a cool finish.

MSC backline looked dishevelled in the face of Goa's relentless attack especially using both flanks. Had Udanta and Brison in the first half and Boris Singh after the break been more accurate, Goa could have returned with a bigger margin of win.

Just like the game against Jamshedpur, MSC appeared in better shape after the break with Mehrajuddin introducing Makan Chothe and Fardin Ali Molla. Lalthankima then arrived in the 72nd minute and orchestrated two moves which could have turned Goa's profligacy costly.

Within a minute of his arrival, he caught the Goa defence off guard with a searching run down the left and cut it back for Mohitosh Roy whose shot was blocked by goalkeeper Hrithik Tiwari. Chothe, with a gaping goal in front of him, blazed the rebound over the bar from the six-yard box. **Today's matches:** East Bengal vs Sporting Delhi (5 pm), Jamshedpur vs Punjab FC (7:30 pm). Live, Fancode

"I'VE HEARD THE NARRATIVE THAT THE T20 WORLD CUP DOESN'T MATTER TO US. TO SIT BACK AND SAY THAT WE'RE PRIORITISING OTHER FORMATS OR OTHER VERSIONS OF THE GAME AND NOT THE T20 WC IS ENTIRELY FALSE."
— Andrew McDonald, AUSTRALIA COACH

# MIND THE LEFT-HAND DRIVE!

**India & South Africa Engage In Intense Tactical Sessions Ahead Of Super 8 Tie, With Plans Largely Revolving Around The Southpaws**

CENTRE OF ATTENTION: Abhishek Sharma trains in Ahmedabad on Friday

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**Ahmedabad:** Abhishek Sharma was understandably the most talked-about cricketer at the Narendra Modi stadium here on Friday. Two days out from India's first Super 8 match against South Africa, one could cut the tension around this colossal arena with a knife. The reason? India's prime weapon coming into this T20 World Cup is yet to get off the mark.

Friday was about preparing for a match which is going to be highly tactical. Brothers Morne Morkel and Albie Morkel, in coaching roles for India and South Africa respectively, haven't spoken to each other for a fortnight. Most of the drills — from the South African team's practice in the scorching afternoon heat to Abhishek taking guard with bat in the nets at the fag end of the day — revolved around left-handers.

South Africa captain Aiden Markram, off-spinner George Linde, Keshav Maharaj and the pace attack spent over an hour practicing bowling to left-handers in the nets with assistant coach Albie Morkel taking stance at the batting end.

Abhishek may have not got going but he still instills fear in the opposition camp. Markram has played enough cricket with and against Abhishek in the IPL to know the damage he can cause to South Africa on Sunday.

However, it's not just about Abhishek. In pursuit of striking the right balance, India ended up with a deluge of left-handers in the batting lineup. Naturally, the off-spinners came into play. Maharaj kept firing full deliveries outside the off-stump while pacers Kagiso Rabada, Anrich Nortje and Lungi Ngidi frequently switched between bowling from over the wicket to bowling from round the wicket.

After India's last match against the Netherlands, assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate did concede the team's rather submissive performance against the finger spinners in the tournament. South Africa is a professional enough unit to work on further exposing India's supposed frailties with the bat.

> We're going through a very important phase of the World Cup now and we expect Abhishek Sharma to do well, not just for the team but also for all the viewers. Abhishek is entertaining and we all love to see him bat. He's hitting the ball well. It's just a matter of getting that start and Abhishek will get going."
> —Morne Morkel | ASSISTANT COACH

There may be murmurs around India becoming too predictable by stacking their batting with too many left-handers. It wasn't surprising when Abhishek did get into the nets, after a long chat with head coach Gautam Gambhir. He spent a lot of time batting against the spinners. There was much restraint instead of wild swinging. It was back to basics for him even against the seamers. The big shots came rarely off his bat.

"Luckily, there's been someone standing up for Abhishek. But we are in the important phase of the tournament. I am sure, not just for the team but for the viewers, he will come good because of the entertainment he offers," India's bowling coach Morne Morkel said on Friday evening.

It's strange how a batting lineup which went about ruthlessly assaulting bowling attacks barely a month ago has suddenly started to look a tad vulnerable going into the business end of the tournament. The first round of matches — three against the associate nations of the ICC — were meant to iron out the chinks. Instead, India go into the Super 8 stage still reworking their strategies.

"That's been the makeup of the team coming into this World Cup. The opposition bowlers will still have sleepless nights," Morne said of the team composition. "We know the South African bowlers will be working on taking the ball away from the left-handers. So, we will prepare for that," he added.

Thus, India's nets session under lights for the next three hours focused on what the South Africans and the teams going forward would throw at them. Ishan Kishan, in the dreamiest phase of his career, looked more intent on driving and punching off the backfoot through the off side. Arshdeep Singh hung around that line for much of Ishan's batting stint. The spinners stuck to the off-stump line to the left-handers. Tilak Varma, not at his fluent best yet in the tournament, moved to the practice pitches outside the stadium with throwdown specialists just to work on the off-side game.

## Cannot be unidimensional with bat: Morkel

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MORNE MORKEL

**Ahmedabad:** As the Indian camp gets ready for the Super 8 stage, bowling coach Morne Morkel warned against being unidimensional, suggesting batters should look to score between 250 and 300 in every match. The Indian team surprisingly pivoted from its 'all-out-attack' approach after the collapse against USA in the beginning of their campaign. Morkel said the tacky nature of the pitches forced the issue.

"I understand there are certain expectations of the fans. There's a lot of pressure on curators to produce high-scoring games. In terms of playing on these pitches, it's important for us to communicate with the players.

"It may be a 170-type of surface. You can't have just tunnel vision and be one-dimensional where we're going to try and score 300 or 250 every game.

"We have the bowling to defend a target of 170-180 on these pitches as well," Morkel said.

Morkel also said that the team is open to playing different bowling conditions depending on the surfaces.

"We do discuss options in terms of how we can approach our bowling against different teams. It's important to stay aware and keep looking for ways that we can strike better," Morkel added.

## Axar thrives on home comfort

**Aided By His Dietician Wife & A Team Looking After His Training Needs In Nadiad, Staying In Top Shape Is No Problem For The Allrounder...**

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AXAR PATEL

**Ahmedabad:** In the last week of Feb 2021, Axar Patel's international career truly got rolling here at the revamped Narendra Modi stadium when he played the lead role in demolishing England in the Test series. The three preceding years out of the Indian team had already transformed him as a cricketer. Five years later, he will be stepping on to his home turf as a core member of the leadership group when the T20 World Cup enters its business end with India taking on South Africa on Sunday.

Axar likes to keep everything around him as uncomplicated as possible. For all his cricket riches, he has preferred building a new swanky house in his hometown in Nadiad, around 60 km from Ahmedabad. He rushes to this comfort place when he isn't with the Indian team.

The process he follows to stay on top is rigorous and detailed. His own extensive training sessions are all scheduled at the GS Patel Stadium in the Kheda district. He has formed a strong core team outside the Indian cricket structure.

Leading that team is his wife Meha, who charts out his diet. "Meha is a qualified dietician. Even if he is travelling with the Indian team, he gets every meal cleared by Meha," Axar's childhood friend and confidant Keval Patel in Nadiad told **TOI**. "He gets breaks maybe a couple of times in a year. He loves to eat cheese vada paav and laze around when he comes here. Meha doesn't stop him from eating them but adjusts the next few meals accordingly," Keval said.

Much of Axar's evolution as a cricketer and as a batter, in particular, happened at the GS Patel stadium. Axar took it on himself to renovate the gym with very basic facilities and turn it into a high-end fitness centre. "He usually follows the routine given to him by the support staff in the BCCI. But he realised that the local kids also need better facilities. Five years ago, he said he will fund the renovation of the gym. The gym has pictures of all the top Indian cricketers mounted on the wall," said Keval.

"Axar plans training sessions according to different batting situations. He has been batting for four-five hours a day for the last five-six years. On certain days, he will be practicing against the new ball too. On other days, he will bat on the centre square, practicing only power-hitting," Keval said.

And what drills does he do for his bowling? "He just does spot bowling. His only focus is to get his pitching right. He will be hitting the same spot for a long period of time, varying pace and angles," Keval said.

## HC seeks state response on crowd management

**Bengaluru:** Karnataka High Court on Friday sought a response from the state govt on the suggestions made by the amicus curiae in the suo motu PIL registered over the stampede that occurred at M Chinnaswamy Stadium on June 4 last year, wherein 11 people lost their lives.

Senior advocate S Susheela, amicus curiae in the case, suggested that some of the measures incorporated in the draft SOPs for crowd management could be included in the proposed Karnataka Control (Managing Crowd at Events and Places of Gathering) Act, 2025.

According to her, crowd management could be difficult if RCB matches were conducted at the stadium in the upcoming IPL tournament before the measures proposed in the SOP are put in place. TNN

### GALLERY

## Radha takes Ind 'A' to final

Skipper Radha Yadav produced an excellent all-round effort to power India 'W' into the final of the Women's Rising Stars T20 Asia Cup with a five-wicket victory over Sri Lanka 'A' in Bangkok on Friday. Sri Lanka elected to bat, but the decision backfired spectacularly. The Indian bowlers, led by Radha, ran through the lineup to bowl them out for a paltry 138. India will take on Bangladesh 'W' in the final. Bangladesh defeated Pakistan 'A' by 54 runs in the other semifinal. **Brief scores: Sri Lanka 'W' 138 in 19.4 overs** (Sanjana Kavindi 31; Radha Yadav 4-19, Prema Rawat 3-9, Tanuja Kanwar 2-30) lost to **India 'W' 139/5 in 13.3 overs** (Vrinda Dinesh 42, Radha Yadav 31; [illegible] 2-31).

**India gun for series win:** India will need their batting big guns to fire collectively against an experienced Australian bowling group in the third and final women's T20I to seal a maiden series triumph Down Under, in Adelaide on Saturday. The Indian women are yet to score a bilateral series win in Australia across all three formats. To change that script, India need a better batting effort and it starts from openers Smriti Mandhana and Shafali Verma.

**Chouhan triumphs:** The seasoned Om Prakash Chouhan produced a late flourish to outclass his rivals and seize his 12th professional win on the final day of the Players Championship in Kolkata. Chouhan (68-67-64-64) delivered a six-under 64 in round four to take his tournament total to 16-under 264 and secure his first victory in over two years. Shaurya Bhattacharya (64-62-73-66) and Manu Gandas (66-68-64-66) finished tied second with 15-under 265.

**Butt's ban revoked:** The Pakistan govt on Friday revoked national hockey team skipper Ammad Shakeel Butt's two-year ban imposed by the national federation (PHF), terming the step as "illegal and unconstitutional".

# WHERE THE HEART BEATS FOR DOMESTIC CRICKET

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**Bengaluru:** The Ranji Trophy semifinal between Karnataka and Uttarakhand at the Ekana Cricket Stadium in Uttar Pradesh's capital city, Lucknow, unfolded in front of largely empty stands this week. In sharp contrast, the Kalyani Stadium, approximately 55 km from Kolkata, was filled with a boisterous crowd backing Bengal and the eventual finalists, Jammu and Kashmir, in the other semifinal.

The contrast underlines a truth that is often overlooked. In metropolitan centres that regularly host international fixtures and the IPL, even star-studded Ranji contests struggle to generate interest. But move the same fixture to a tier 2 or tier 3 city, and the energy shifts. The ongoing ICC T20 World Cup and the

**RANJI FINAL**

unavailability of the M Chinnaswamy Stadium here have turned out to be a blessing, with Hubballi hosting its maiden Ranji Trophy final.

The past is proof of the love for the game away from the metros.

The 1996-97 Ranji Trophy final at the Captain Roop Singh Stadium — the country's first day-night first-class match — drew massive crowds despite hosts Madhya Pradesh not featuring in the summit clash. Mumbai went on to clinch the title by virtue of their first-innings lead over Delhi, but what lingered was the overwhelming public response.

Over the years, smaller towns have embraced domestic cricket with a passion that often eludes bigger cities. The trend is expected to continue when Karnataka hosts Jammu and Kashmir in the final at the KSCA Rajnagar Stadium starting on Tuesday. The last time a tier 2 city in Karnataka staged a Ranji final was in 2009-10 at Mysuru, where Mumbai, led by Wasim Jaffer, edged Karnataka by six runs in a thrilling finish. The stands were packed beyond capacity, and some fans even watched from treetops around the ground.

Former India pacer Javagal Srinath, who honed his skills in Mysuru, believes taking marquee domestic matches to smaller centres has a transformative impact. "It is a brilliant idea to host a Ranji Trophy final in a tier 2 or 3 city because a generation draws inspiration from it. Enthusiasm in such places is unmatched. I have nothing against bigger cities, but how people there receive domestic cricket pales in comparison to smaller towns," Srinath said.

He emphasised the effect on aspiring cricketers. "Budding players in smaller towns have limited exposure to top-level cricket, so they value domestic matches immensely. Connection to any sport is through players. Watching their idols represent the state instils belief. If a youngster from Mysuru sees someone from his region succeed, it upgrades his belief that he can do the same."

Echoing the sentiment, former Karnataka cricketer Avinash Vaidya, who featured in 46 first-class and 25 List A matches, recalled how watching stalwarts like GR Vishwanath, Roger Binny and Syed Kirmani at local tournaments in Hubballi shaped his ambitions.

"People starved of watching established cricketers see it as their gateway to stargazing. Many cannot afford to travel to Bengaluru for IPL or international matches. So taking domestic cricket to them is vital," Vaidya said.

"As a 15-year-old club-level player, playing against greats representing their institutions changed my life," the former wicketkeeper added.

In smaller towns, nothing is taken for granted — not even the Ranji Trophy. And perhaps that is why domestic cricket often finds its most passionate audience in such pockets.

**KNOW THE VENUE**

**City:** Hubballi

**Venue:** KSCA Rajnagar Stadium

**Capacity:**
**15,000-18,000**

**First match after being redeveloped:** Karnataka vs Haryana Ranji Trophy league match, Dec 2012

**Last match:** Karnataka vs Chandigarh Ranji Trophy league match, Nov 2025

> People starved of watching established cricketers see it as their gateway to stargazing. Many cannot afford to travel to Bengaluru for IPL or international matches. So taking domestic cricket to them is vital
> Avinash Vaidya | FORMER KARNATAKA CRICKETER

## Vaishnavi shocks Preston

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**Bengaluru:** Of the six Indians who entered the fray in the ITF Women's Open main draw, Vaishnavi Adkar (World No. 690) was the third-lowest ranked player. Rankings, however, meant little to the 21-year-old, who has outplayed higher-ranked opponents in the W100 event at the SM Krishna Tennis Stadium.

After defeating Japan's Mai Hontama (220) on Thursday, the Indian wildcard delivered an even bigger upset on Friday as she edged past Australia's Taylah Preston (148) 6-3, 1-6, 6-4 in one hour and 33 minutes to set up a

**TENNIS**

semifinal clash with second seed Lanlana Tararudee of Thailand. Third seed Hanne Vandewinkel of Belgium will take on fifth seed Polina Iatcenko in the other semifinal.

"It feels amazing," said Vaishnavi, who trains at the Rohan Bopanna Tennis Academy here. "I wasn't thinking about the rankings — it was just another match. I didn't want to put unnecessary pressure on myself. It's a big stage, and moments like these are when you have to level up (your game) and prove yourself. I'm glad I could do that."

ON COURSE: Hanne Vandewinkel of Belgium in action on Friday

Vaishnavi started the quarterfinal trading breaks. As the opening set progressed, she looked increasingly confident from the baseline. Breaks in the sixth and eighth games put her in control, and she closed out the set with confidence. Preston, who did not drop a set en route to the quarterfinals, then raised her level in the second. The 20-year-old's aggressive groundstrokes put Vaishnavi on the back foot as the Australian jumped to a 4-1 lead and eventually forced a decider.

Riding on the momentum, Preston raced to a 3-1 lead in the decider. With Rohan Bopanna cheering from the stands, Vaishnavi responded strongly. A delicate drop shot narrowed the gap, and she soon broke Preston in the sixth game with a series of powerful forehands to draw level at 3-3.

Vaishnavi, who was 40-0 up in the seventh game, kept up the fight as Preston won the next three points. Eventually, an unforced error from the Australian helped her take a 4-3 lead. The two players then traded breaks in the eighth and ninth games. With Preston serving to stay in the match, Vaishnavi broke again. She converted her third match point, as Preston sent a backhand long, to seal her place in the semifinal.

**Results: Singles (quarterfinals):** Vaishnavi Adkar (Ind) bt 4-Taylah Preston (Aus) 6-3, 1-6, 6-4; 2-Lanlana Tararudee (Tha) bt Elena Pridankina 6-1, 6-3; 3-Hanne Vandewinkel (Bel) bt Fangran Tian (Chn) 6-2, 6-2; 5-Polina Iatcenko bt 3-Talia Gibson (Aus) 6-2, 7-5.

## India's youngsters in focus again

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After putting up a forgettable performance in the Rourkela leg of Pro League where they lost all their four matches, the Indian men's hockey team will be hoping to make a better showing during the Hobart leg starting with their opener against Spain on Saturday.

**FIH PRO LEAGUE**

The team will be led by Hardik Singh after regular skipper Harmanpreet Singh was rested for personal reasons. Once again the focus will be on the youngsters as coach Craig Fulton looks to prepare the team for the two major events later this year, the Asian Games and the World Cup. While Amandeep

Lakra and Aditya Arjun Lalage already had an opportunity to impress in Rourkela, Poovanna Chandura Boby, Angad Bir Singh and Maninder Singh have been added to the squad for the Hobart leg.

Another youngster looking to make a mark will be goalkeeper Mohith HS. Goalkeeping remains to be one of the major areas of concern in the team. "Goalkeepers need to do well but recent performances have been worrying. At this level, small mistakes make a big difference, so it's important they step up, regain confidence, and deliver," said Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey.

Tirkey is looking for an improved show from the established players. "The experienced and star players need to be consistent and take more responsibility. They have the experience and quality, and the team looks to them in difficult moments. It's time that they deliver when the pressure is highest," added Tirkey.

Hardik is looking forward to leading the team in Harmanpreet's absence. "While we will certainly miss Harmanpreet's presence on the pitch, his absence provides a valuable opportunity for the rest of the group to step up and take charge," said Hardik.

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Actor Ranveer Singh received multiple threat calls from Lawrence Bishnoi gang member Harry Boxer demanding ₹20cr, says FIR filed by Mumbai police, P 8

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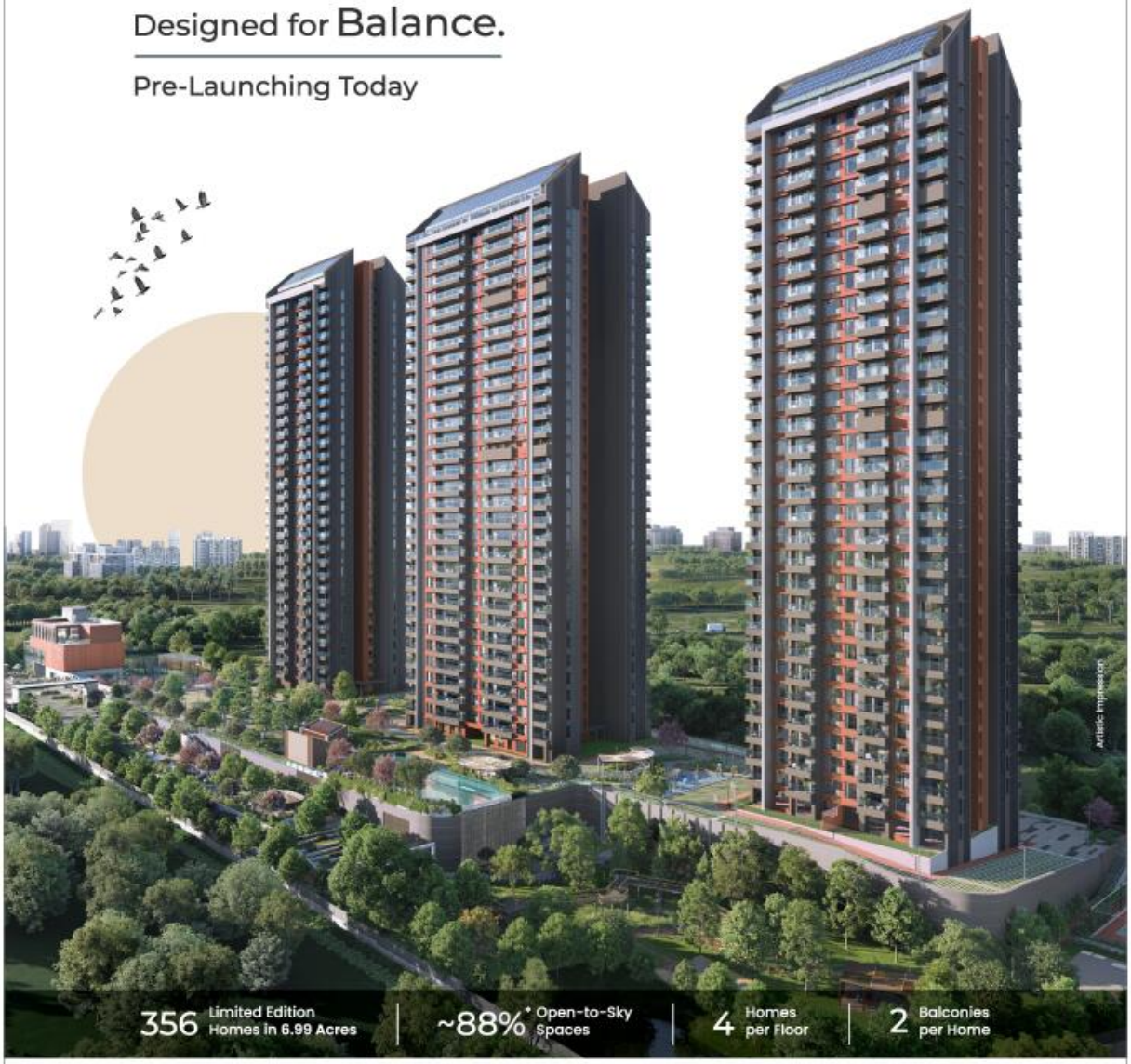


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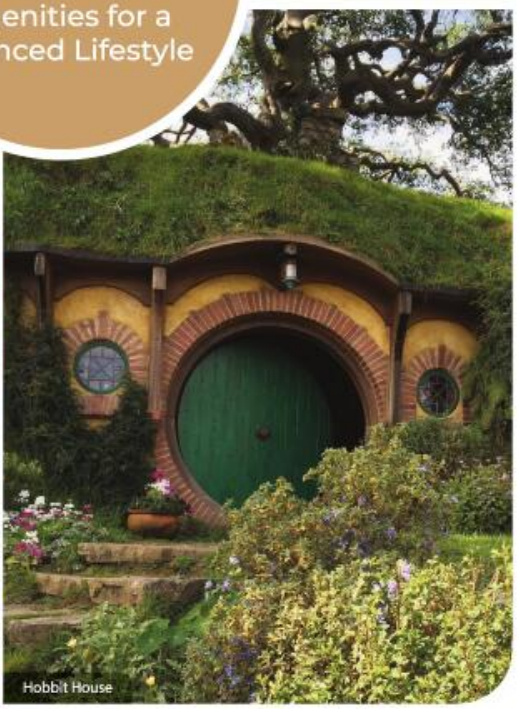

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"Inspirational move... enthusiasm in such places is unmatched," says former Indian cricketer Javagal Srinath as Hubballi gets ready to host J&K in Ranji final, P 21

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# TIMES GLOBAL

* THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2026


IN LIFE, WHAT WE GO THROUGH, WE GROW THROUGH — GARY KAY

JAMES CAMERON WARNS AGAINST NETFLIX-WARNER BROS DEAL, SAYS IT MAY RESULT IN FEWER THEATRICAL RELEASES, JOB LOSSES

MILEY CYRUS ON PREGNANCY RUMOURS: 'YES, I'M PREGNANT WITH HANNAH MONTANA. BE READY FOR BEST OF BOTH WORLDS'

## Trump: Will impose temporary 10% global tariff to replace duties struck down by SC

### Slams Justices As 'Disgrace To Nation', 'Unpatriotic', 'Disloyal To Constitution'

Trump speaks during a press conference in the White House on Friday

**Washington:** President Trump delivered a broadside against Supreme Court justices after they struck down the bulk of his sweeping global tariffs, delivering a major blow against his signature economic policy. Trump said Friday at the White House that he was "ashamed of certain members of the court" and said some of the justices were "frankly a disgrace to our nation." "They're very unpatriotic and disloyal to our Constitution," Trump said.

The court ruled 6-3 that Trump had exceeded his authority by invoking a federal emergency-powers law to impose his "reciprocal" tariffs across the globe as well as targeted import taxes the administration says address fentanyl trafficking. Two justices appointed by Trump in his first term — Neil Gorsuch and Amy Coney Barrett — joined the majority in striking down the tariffs.

The justices didn't address the extent to which importers are entitled to refunds, leaving it to a lower court to sort out those issues. If fully allowed, refunds could total as much as $170 billion — more than half the total revenue Trump's tariffs have brought in. White House officials have vowed to replace the tariffs with other tools, though it will be more difficult to reimpose the import taxes and the president is likely to face more substantial restrictions on the scope and duration of the tariffs he can impose.

He said the ruling opened the door to allow him to go in "probably a direction that I should have gone in the first time."

"Foreign countries that have been ripping us off for years are ecstatic. They're so happy, and they're dancing in the streets — but they won't be dancing for long," Trump said.

Trump said that he would impose a 10% global tariff for 150 days to replace some of his emergency duties that were struck down by the SC. Trump said that his order would be made under Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974 and the duties would be over and above tariffs that are currently in place. The statute allows the president to impose duties of up to 15% for up to 150 days on any and all countries related to "large and serious" balance of payments issues. It does not require investigations or impose other procedural limits. "We have alternatives, great alternatives," Trump said. "Could be more money. We'll take in more money and we'll be a lot stronger for it," Trump said of the alternative tools. He said his administration also was initiating several Section 301 unfair trade practices investigations "to protect our country from unfair trading practices of other countries and companies."

Trump's decision to lean on other statutes, including Section 122, while initiating new investigations under Section 301 had been widely anticipated. But the 10% tariffs he announced Friday can only remain in effect for 150 days, and Section 301 investigations generally take months to complete. AGENCIES

### 3 justices warn SC decision may unleash chaos, at least in short-term

A trio of conservative justices Friday warned that the court had overstepped its bounds in its decision to block President Trump's emergency tariffs, arguing that the president should be able to impose tariffs under his power to conduct foreign affairs.

In a 63-page dissent, written by Justice Brett Kavanaugh, who was joined by Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito, the dissenters also raised concerns that the decision would lead to chaos, at least in the short term as importers who have already paid the tariffs seek refunds. "The US may be required to refund billions of dollars to importers who paid the IEEPA tariffs, even though some importers may have already passed on costs to consumers," Kavanaugh wrote, referring to an acronym for the 1970s emergency statute Trump invoked to impose tariffs. He noted discussion at oral arguments about how such a refund process was likely to be a "mess."

He also noted that the administration had used the leverage of tariffs to enter into key trading deals with other nations. Trump, he wrote, "helped facilitate trade deals worth trillions of dollars — including with foreign nations from China to the UK to Japan, and more." The court's ruling "could generate uncertainty regarding those trade arrangements," he wrote.

Kavanaugh wrote that although he "firmly" disagreed with the outcome, "the decision might not substantially constrain a President's ability to order tariffs going forward." He laid out several potential pathways for the president to impose tariffs. He listed sections of several federal laws, including the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, the Trade Act of 1974 and the Tariff Act of 1930, writing that the majority had concluded that "the president checked the wrong statutory box" by relying on the emergency law. NYT

## Message is simple. Presidents are powerful but our Constitution is more powerful: Neal Katyal

▸Continued from P1

CHECKMATE

They contended that Congress, in drafting IEEPA, understood the president would need flexible tools to respond to evolving economic crises. But the majority rejected that interpretation, drawing a sharp distinction between regulating financial flows and levying import taxes—an authority the Constitution vests in Congress. The court emphasised that tariffs are a form of taxation and that delegations of taxing power must be explicit.

The lead challengers in the case were US companies and trade associations whose members had paid billions of dollars in duties under the administration's blanket tariffs imposed via IEEPA, and who were represented by Indian-American attorney Neal Katyal, a former acting solicitor general during Obama administration.

"The US Supreme Court stood up for the rule of law, stood up for Americans everywhere. Its message is simple: Presidents are powerful, but our Constitution is more powerful still. In America, the chief justice said, only Congress can impose taxes on the American people, and that's what tariffs are. Tariffs are taxes," Katyal said, after the 6-3 opinion. On his part, Trump is said to have exploded when he heard about the ruling during a meeting of the National Governors Association, calling it a "disgrace."

The ruling marks the first time the US Supreme Court has definitively struck down a major policy initiative of Trump's second term. In other cases since his return to office in Jan, the court's conservative majority has largely afforded him expansive leeway in wielding executive authority. But here, a coalition of three conservative and three liberal justices concluded that Trump exceeded the bounds set by Congress.

The effect is immediate and sweeping. Much of the administration's tariff agenda—especially the global Liberation Day tariffs first announced April—now stands on legally untenable ground. Economists at Penn-Wharton have estimated that more than $175 billion in tariff revenue would have to be refunded if the tariffs are invalidated, raising complex logistical and fiscal questions.

Importers who paid the duties—ranging from multinational retailers to small manufacturers—could file claims for refunds through US Customs and Border Protection. Depending on how the Treasury processes those claims, repayments could ripple through corporate balance sheets and potentially lower consumer prices in some sectors, a prospect that buoyed markets on Friday.

The administration could also seek explicit congressional authorisation for new tariffs, though that route would require bipartisan support in a divided political climate and a very narrow GOP majority. Alternatively, it might narrow its focus—targeting specific industries such as electric vehicles or semiconductors—where national security arguments may be more defensible.

## Weighing limited strike on Iran, acknowledges Trump

President Donald Trump told reporters on Friday that he was weighing a limited military strike to pressure Iran into making a deal.

"I guess I can say I am considering that," he said at the start of a meeting with governors at the White House.

The Pentagon has been building up naval forces and air power near Iran in recent weeks, one of the largest US buildups in West Asia in two decades, and Trump has repeatedly threatened Iran with another round of strikes if it did not abandon its nuclear programme.

Trump has not laid out a clear argument for attacking Iran for a second time in a year or how extensive the attack might be. He hasn't made public speeches laying out his argument nor has he consulted with Congress. Weeks ago, the president threatened military action to stop Iran from carrying out a brutal crackdown on anti-govt protesters. More recently, Trump has said the purpose of another US strike would be to prevent Iran from getting nuclear weapons, and he has talked about wanting a deal with Iran on that issue, without spelling out any details.

Meanwhile, Iran's foreign minister Abbas Araqchi said on Friday he expected to have a draft counterproposal ready in the next two or three days for top Iranian officials to review, with more US-Iran talks possible in a week or so. Military action would complicate efforts to reach a deal, he added. He gave no specific timing as to when Iran would get its counterproposal to US envoys, but said he believed a diplomatic deal was within reach and could be achieved "in a very short period of time." AGENCIES

**US AIRCRAFT CARRIER ENTERS MEDITERRANEAN:** The USS Gerald R. Ford aircraft carrier (above) was seen entering the Mediterranean Sea on Friday, where it was ordered by President Trump as part of a massive military buildup in West Asia. The carrier was seen transiting the Strait of Gibraltar in a photo taken from the Gibraltar side of the strait

### 'US strikes could target individuals'

**Washington:** US military planning on Iran has reached an advanced stage with options including targeting individuals as part of an attack and even pursuing regime change in Tehran, if ordered by President Trump, two US officials said.

The military options are the latest signs the US is preparing for a serious conflict with Iran should diplomatic efforts fail. The revelations suggest ambitious planning ahead of a decision by Trump, who has in recent days floated the idea of regime change in Iran.

The US officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, did not offer further details on which individuals could be targeted or how the US military could attempt to carry out regime change in Tehran without a large ground force.

Trump has assembled a massive amount of firepower in West Asia but most of the combat capabilities are aboard warships and fighter aircraft. Any major bombing campaign could also count on support from US-based bombers.

Iran's Revolutionary Guard has warned it could retaliate against US military bases in the region if the US strikes Iranian territory. REUTERS

## Warren Buffett's company invests in NYT 6 years after he sold all his newspapers

**Omaha:** Six years after Warren Buffett sold off all of Berkshire Hathaway's newspapers and predicted unending declines for most of the industry, Berkshire disclosed a new $350 million investment in New York Times Tuesday.

The somewhat surprising move highlighted the quarterly update Berkshire filed with the securities and exchange commission about the company's stock holdings in Buffett's last quarter as CEO. Berkshire also increased its investment in Chevron just before President Donald Trump ordered the arrest of Venezuela's president, and the Omaha-based company continued selling off more of its Bank of America and Apple shares.

At the time Buffett sold off Berkshire's dozens of newspapers in 2020 he concluded the industry was "toast." But even then he suggested that newspapers with a national brand like NYT or The Wall Street Journal might still do well. "It's a full circle moment for Berkshire Hathaway in reinvesting in news and a huge vote of confidence by Berkshire in the business strategy of NYT," said Tim Franklin, a professor at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism.

The other notable moves Buffett's Berkshire made in the last three months of 2025 included selling off roughly 50 million Bank of America shares although it still holds nearly 81 million shares of the bank that he first started buying in 2011 while Bank of America was struggling. And Berkshire trimmed about 10 million shares off its massive Apple stake but continued to hold nearly 228 million shares at the end of last year. AP

## PIO to head CDC in addition to NIH

### First Time Any Individual Has Led Both

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

**Washington:** In a sweeping consolidation of federal health leadership, US President Donald Trump has appointed Indian-American Dr Jay Bhattacharya, director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), to lead the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The move marks the first time any individual has led the nation's premier medical research agency and its primary public health agency at once, marking an unprecedented step in US public health leadership amid ongoing turmoil in scientific institutions.

The White House framed the decision as a necessary step to synchronise federal health policy, with administration officials suggesting the dual-role strategy is designed to bridge the gap between biomedical research and public health implementation. Bhattacharya replaces Jim O'Neill, who is slated to lead the National Science Foundation after its director, Dr Sethuraman Panchanathan, resigned following significant funding cuts.

Dr Jayanta "Jay" Bhattacharya, 57, is a physician and health economist with a background that spans decades at Stanford University. Born in Kolkata, he immigrated to the US as a child, eventually earning four degrees from Stanford, including an M.D. and a Ph.D. in economics before becoming a tenured professor there, focusing on health economics and vulnerable populations. His research emphasised population aging, chronic diseases, and the impacts of govt programmes on well-being.

His entry into the political spotlight began in 2020 when as a co-author of the Great Barrington Declaration, Bhattacharya argued against universal Covid-19 lockdowns, advocating instead for "focused protection" of the elderly while allowing the young and healthy to live normally. His opposition to vaccine mandates and perceived censorship by officials like Dr Anthony Fauci propelled him into the MAGA orbit. He has since framed his views as a fight against "politicised science," aligning with Trump's agenda to reform institutions and restore trust in public health.

This stance placed him in direct opposition to the public health establishment of the time, leading former NIH director Francis Collins to label him a "fringe epidemiologist." The professional smackdown cemented his status within the MAGA movement, which viewed him as a courageous dissenter against "medical overreach."

Now positioned as America's #1 health official, Bhattacharya faces a daunting task. While he has expressed support for standard childhood vaccinations during Senate hearings, he takes over a CDC that has seen its vaccine schedules aggressively reviewed and several mandates rolled back under health secretary Robert Kennedy.

Supporters however hail it as a step toward decentralising power; boosting innovative grants, and addressing chronic illnesses like obesity and autism in America through Trump's "Make America Healthy Again" initiatives, from a more expansive global focus on infectious diseases.

However, critics fear it advances Kennedy's vaccine-sceptic agenda, exacerbating outbreaks of preventable diseases amid grant cuts, staff layoffs, and policy rollbacks at both agencies. They also point to the logistical challenge he will face, managing the $50 billion NIH budget in Bethesda outside Washington DC while overseeing the 10,000-plus employees of the Atlanta-based CDC, which has a $10 billion budget.

Bhattacharya's NIH tenure has already seen budget freezes and expert exodus, raising alarms about divided leadership hobbling responses to emerging threats. For the average American though, the leadership shift likely signals a move toward reduced federal mandates, with a continued emphasis on "Medical Freedom" and individual choice.

## Trump's plan may pause work permits for asylum seekers

**Washington:** Work permits for asylum applicants could be paused for 'many years' under a proposal published by US President **Donald Trump**'s administration Friday in what would be one of the most sweeping changes to asylum-seeker employment authorisation in decades.

The proposed rule, issued by the US department of homeland security (DHS), seeks to reduce incentives for migrants to file asylum applications to gain legal work authorisation and aims to lower the processing workload to increase security checks. The proposed change - which will likely face legal challenges - is part of a broader Trump administration effort to reduce both legal and illegal immigration.

The new DHS proposal would pause processing of work permits for all new asylum applicants until average processing times for certain asylum applications reach 180 days or lower. Based on current wait times, DHS estimated it could take between 14 to 173 years to reach the level to resume the processing, but stressed that other factors could shorten the timeline. The Trump administration also proposed creating more restrictive eligibility criteria for asylum-based work permits, arguing that a work permit "is not an entitlement".

Notably, the regulation would generally bar migrants who entered the US illegally from receiving new work permits or renewing existing ones. The restriction would have limited exceptions. REUTERS

### Trump orders release of UFO records

US President Donald Trump said on Thursday he would direct federal agencies to begin releasing govt files related to aliens and unidentified flying objects, pointing to what he described as strong public interest in the issue. He accused former President Obama of disclosing classified information when discussing aliens publicly, saying Obama "made a big mistake." REUTERS

### TOI LINE OF NO CONTROL

Sandeep Adhwaryu

TRUMP ORDERS RELEASE OF ALIEN FILES

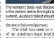
## Man left GF alone on hike. She froze to death. He's found guilty of manslaughter

Helena Sevelak & Jonathan Wolfe

**Innsbruck (Austria):** An Austrian man was found guilty on Thursday of gross negligent manslaughter after he left his girlfriend behind on a hike and she froze to death, in a case that prompted an international debate over personal responsibility in mountaineering.

The man, Thomas Plamberger, 37, was given a suspended sentence of five months in prison and fined €9,400 (about $11,300) in the Innsbruck courtroom over the death of his 33-year-old girlfriend, Kerstin Gurtner. Her body was discovered the morning after the couple set out on a hike in Jan 2025, just a few meters below the summit of Grossglockner, Austria's tallest mountain. Plamberger said during the trial that his girlfriend had become exhausted near the summit on their hike, and that the couple had decided he would descend the mountain to get help while she stayed.

Judge Norbert Hofer, who presided over the trial, which did not have a jury, expressed sympathy for Plamberger, but also condemned him for his actions during the hike. "Mr Plamberger, you have borne an incredible burden — you lost a person," he said. "She placed herself in your care and trusted that her partner would bring her up safely," he said, adding: "If you had acted differently, I strongly assume that your partner would have survived." During the trial, Plamberger apologised and said he had he lost the most beloved person.



The woman's body was discovered a few metres below Grossglockner summit, Austria's tallest mountain

The trial was seen as a test of an Austrian legal tradition that requires people who have a "duty of care" to protect others and avert danger. Before the trial, Plamberger and prosecutors laid out their versions of what happened during the climb.

On the hike, Gurtner suddenly showed signs of exhaustion around midnight, according to Plamberger. He called the police to request a rescue helicopter, but the police said that Plamberger had told them that "everything was fine." After the call, Gurtner could not continue, Plamberger said, and they decided he would descend alone to find help. He called the police again around 3.30am requesting a helicopter. Gurtner's body was discovered the next morning.

The case hinged on a concept in Germanic law known as Garantenstellung. It establishes a responsibility to intervene for people who have a duty of care in a range of situations, including parents caring for kids or a driver who hits a pedestrian — and can put liability on them. The prosecution argued that Plamberger was more experienced than Gurtner and was responsible for her on the trip. The defence argued that they were both experienced and had both planned the trip.

During the trial Thursday, Hofer, who is also an emergency mountain rescuer, criticised Plamberger for not communicating with the police. "'My partner can't continue' was not communicated — that is the most fundamental information," Hofer said. "Then the strategy changes — a position sheltered from wind, take out blankets — as a mountaineer you must know that."

A dramatic turn came late in the trial when a surprise witness, Andrea Bergener, an ex-girlfriend of Plamberger's, testified that Plamberger had left her alone on a night hike on Grossglockner a few years earlier. "Once we descended the Glockner at night, and suddenly he was gone," she said. "I felt dizzy, I screamed, and I was completely alone. From then on, we didn't go on any more hikes together."

The judge found that Plamberger was largely responsible for Gurtner, saying his mountaineering skills were "galaxies" away from hers, and faulting him for not recognising her abilities. "You are an excellent alpinist, but someone who finds it very difficult to make the switch between your own limits and those of others," he said. Plamberger's lawyer, Kurt Jelinek, said that the trial was "fair" and that his client "accepted the verdict with composure. NYT

### DAILY PLANET

#### Police search former UK prince Andrew's home day after arrest

Police searched the former home of Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor again on Friday, a day after he was arrested and held in custody for nearly 11 hours on suspicion of misconduct in public office related to his friendship with the late convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. The former prince is back at his new residence on the Sandringham estate, King Charles III's private retreat, which is around 185 kilometers north of London. Police have concluded their search at Wood Farm, where Mountbatten-Windsor is living while waiting for his new home nearby, Marsh Farm, to be ready. They are still searching Royal Lodge, his 30-room former home in the parkland near Windsor Castle, where he had lived for decades until his eviction. Andrew has not been charged so far. On Friday, London's metropolitan police said it was assessing, with the US' help, whether the capital's airports, which include Heathrow, "may have been used to facilitate human trafficking and sexual exploitation."

#### Tensions flare between Macron and Meloni over killing of French activist

A war of words erupted between French President Emmanuel Macron and Italian PM Giorgia Meloni on Thursday over the killing of a French far-right activist who was beaten by hard-left activists over the weekend during protests in Lyon. Seven people, including an assistant to an MP from the far-left France Unbowed, will face murder charges in the case, a prosecutor said on Thursday. Meloni, a conservative, said on Wednesday that the killing "by groups linked to left-wing extremism ... is a wound for all of Europe." That triggered an angry response from Macron on Thursday: "I'm always struck by how people who are nationalists, who don't want to be bothered in their own country, are always the first ones to comment on what's happening in other countries." Asked if his remarks referred to Meloni, he replied: "You got that right."

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